

Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Date: Tuesday, 23rd July, 2024

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

Councillors: Robin Moss, Lucy Hodge, Ian Halsall, Hal MacFie, Toby Simon,
Malcolm Treby, Colin Blackburn, George Tomlin and Duncan Hounsell



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NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

Paper copies are available for inspection at the Guildhall - Bath.

2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control.

Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators.

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Further details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=12942>

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Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel - Tuesday, 23rd July, 2024

at 4.00 pm in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

A G E N D A

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 6.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to indicate:

- (a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.
- (b) The nature of their interest.
- (c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** or an **other interest**,
(as defined in Part 4.4 Appendix B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

5. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN
6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

At the time of publication no notifications had been received.

7. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 12)
8. CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member will update the Panel on any relevant issues. Panel members may ask questions on the update provided.
9. 2023/24 OUTTURN REPORT (Pages 13 - 40)
10. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS - APRIL 2024 TO JUNE 2024 (Pages 41 - 68)

11. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (Pages 69 - 118)
12. PANEL WORKPLAN (Pages 119 - 122)

This report presents the latest workplan for the Panel. Any suggestions for further items or amendments to the current programme will be logged and scheduled in consultation with the Panel's Chair and supporting officers.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Michaela Gay who can be contacted on michaela_gay@bathnes.gov.uk, 01225 394411.

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BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Tuesday, 14th May, 2024

Present:- **Councillors** Robin Moss, Lucy Hodge, Ian Halsall, Hal MacFie, Onkar Saini, Toby Simon, Malcolm Treby, Colin Blackburn and Duncan Hounsell

67 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

68 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

The Chair welcomed new Panel Member Councillor Duncan Hounsell.

There were no apologies.

70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

71 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

72 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

There were none

73 MINUTES

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meetings as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

74 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

Councillor Dave Wood, Deputy Council Leader (non-statutory) and Cabinet Member for Council Priorities & Delivery gave an update which covered the following:

- Staff Recognition Event 27th June
- Shortlisted for LGC award – Most Improved Council

- Communications activity
- Annual performance update
- Development of new reporting indicators aligned to the 2023-27 Corporate Strategy
- Voicebox
- Debate not Hate
- Care experienced People

Councillor Simon commented on the article regarding the quality of Councils, he stated that this Council scored low regarding finance due to it's low spending power.

Councillor Mark Elliott, Cabinet Member for Resources, gave an update which covered the following:

- 2023-2024 Budget outturn report
- 2024-2025 Budget monitoring report
- Preparation for the 2025/26 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy
- Procurement Act

Councillor Moss stated that it is good to hear the Cabinet Member is positive about the outcome of the last financial year and asked how Quarter 1 is looking. The Cabinet Member stated that he could not say for sure yet but that there was continued pressure in Children's Services.

Councillor Moss asked about the suspension of the safety valve funding by the Government. The Cabinet Member explained that the safety valve programme refers to a carried overspend due to the Government underfunding the direct Schools Grant. He explained that he is confident that the suspension is nothing to be concerned about, there are discussions with the DfE and a robust plan.

Councillor Halsall congratulated the Cabinet Member on the move to bring social care back in house.

Councillor Simon asked if the safety valve suspension impacted on the school or the general budget. The Cabinet Member explained that it depends on which line the DfE take. He stated that it was not a local issue – it is a result of the massive increase in EHCPs (Education Health and Care Plans) and an issue that was not made clear during the academization process on who picked up the preventative work.

75 DEBATE NOT HATE (UPDATE)

Councillor Dave Wood, Deputy Council Leader (non-statutory) and Cabinet Member for Council Priorities & Delivery, introduced the item (officer support Cherry Bennett, Director of People and Change)

Panel members made the following points and asked the following questions:

Councillor Moss thanked the Cabinet Member and officer for including officers as well as Councillors. He asked if this item/work would be cascaded to Town and

Parish Councils. The Cabinet Member explained that yes, it was being taken to the Parish Liaison meeting on 26th June 2024.

Councillor Hounsell commented on the fact that the monitoring officer has indicated that he will be sympathetic to removing addresses from the register of interests but asked what 'sympathetic' means in practice and suggested that the default position be that addresses are not shown. The Cabinet Member stated that there has to be a compelling and specific reason within the current law and that he would prefer something more definitive.

Councillor Blackburn stated that previously Councillors have been able to give the party address but independents to not have that option. Councillor Moss explained that there are two matters – the address published as a contact on the website (which could be c/o Guildhall for example) and the declaration of an address on the register of interests which is public.

Councillor Simon (Co Chair of the Standards Committee) stated that the Monitoring Officer had been asked to consider a default position and he thinks that will be reasonable. He added that, in his last authority, the statement on the register of interests was 'address within the borough as declared to the Monitoring Officer'. The Cabinet Member stated that the Monitoring Officer had to work within the current law.

Councillor Hodge commented that the list of incidents/events is not as systematic for Councillors as it is for officers. She also asked about the nominated officer for member wellbeing. The officer stated that there is a system for Health and Safety incidents, and we will be rolling out the use of the system for Councillors. She explained that there is a virtual briefing on this for Councillors in June and the nominated officer will be promoted.

Councillor Blackburn asked what work is being done to root out anonymous troll accounts (internal and external). The Cabinet Member acknowledged this point and stated that it would be taken away to discuss.

Councillor Simon stated that there used to be a shared index of people who were cautionary contacts that was used by officers and Councillors, has this now been affected by Data Protection issues. The officer agreed that GDPR rules had had an affect on lists such as this.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and officers.

76 UPDATE ON PROCUREMENT

Councillor Mark Elliott, Cabinet Member for Resources, gave a presentation which covered the following (Officer support Jeff Wring – Director of One West and APF and Cheryl Hansford, Head of Procurement):

- The Procurement Act and Provider Selection Regime
- The Procurement Act 2023 – Headlines
- Benefits and Opportunities
- Preparation
- The Provider Selection Regime

- Procurement Strategy – Refresh of Priorities
- Strategic Context & Purpose
- Procurement Strategy – Our Refreshed Themes
- Each Theme has an Ambition and set of Outcomes
- Delivering Best Value & Good Governance – Ambition
- Delivering best value & good governance – Example Outcomes
- Embedding Sustainability & Climate Action – Ambition
- Embedding Sustainability & Climate Action - Example Outcomes
- Providing Opportunity for Economic, Social and Environmental Wellbeing – Ambition
- Providing Opportunity for Economic, Social and Environmental Wellbeing – Example Outcomes
- Enhancing the Supply Market – Ambition
- Enhancing the Supply Market – Example Outcomes
- Improving Contract & Commercial Management – Ambition
- Improving Contract & Commercial Management - Example Outcomes
- Building Skills & Capability – Ambition
- Building Skills & Capability - Example Outcomes

Panel members made the following points and asked the following questions:

Councillor Moss asked how we can advertise so that SMEs (Small and Medium size Enterprises) can access the information. He also asked about the risk in terms of unsuccessful companies taking action. The officer explained that the risk of challenge may be raised with more transparency but this will be mitigated by clearer processes.

Councillor Blackburn asked if there was any change in the new legislation with regard to scrutiny of cost overruns. The officer explained that the new Act does not change the process but the transparency element raises the profile. He stated that performance will be managed with increased monitoring through the Corporate Priorities.

Councillor Moss asked about the potential date of secondary legislation and would it involve constitutional changes. He also asked if contracts with arms length organisations such as Aequus would be impacted. The officer explained that the current set up continues, the new legislation would apply to Aequus as well.

Councillor Treby asked how conflict between the themes could be managed. The officer explained that it is about achieving the best outcome – there would need to be a robust conversation with a professional and safe decision.

Councillor MacFie asked about the use of AI in setting up contracts. The officer stated that AI was a subject in itself. He explained that suppliers using AI would be welcomed. Generally the process will not be radically different though, we are trying to improve on what we have.

Councillor Hodge asked how a Cabinet Member's view on the themes would be weighted. The officer explained that the Government framework would be used. There are gateways and guides as to where the Cabinet Member might be involved.

The Cabinet Member stated that views on this are welcome.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and officers.

77 VOICEBOX - OUTCOMES OF RESIDENT SURVEY

Councillor Dave Wood, Deputy Council Leader (non-statutory) and Cabinet Member for Council Priorities & Delivery, introduced the item (officer support Jon Poole)

Panel members made the following points and asked the following questions:

Councillor Hodge stated that it was good to be able to scrutinize this and asked what actions would arise from it. She stated that it was useful to see the sort of thing people are concerned about and asked if we are communicating our positive outcomes widely enough. She added that the majority of responses being on paper may indicate the demographic of most of the respondents.

Councillor Hounsell stated that there are some good messages, and it is hard to see why satisfaction levels are not as high as we would expect. He suggested that the social media put out by the Council have comments switched off as anyone with a positive message is pushed off by negative comments and hectoring.

Councillor Treby asked about next steps.

Councillor Blackburn noted that the majority of responses were on paper which is telling as most of our consultations now are online and would not allow for this facility. He asked if the drop in the belief in engagement (20% to 11%) could be linked to consultation processes. He noted that a lot of the responses on services are good but feedback on the general direction of the Council is not so positive.

Councillor MacFie asked if there were any major differences in responses between the Bath area and North East Somerset area. The Cabinet Member stated that this can be fed into future voicebox surveys.

Councillor Hodge stated the need to dig down further into the responses (for example on walking and cycling) before criticising. She added that she would like to see more of a breakdown and reasons in future voicebox surveys so that some working points can be pulled out. The officer responded that we know certain demographics respond differently and we use 'weighting'.

Councillor Hounsell stated that in quality control, if there is an extreme result, it is sensible to look at the cause but not make any change in the production line. It is better to look for trends.

Councillor Hodge stated that a lot of people did not know about Discovery Cards, maybe information could be put out with Council Tax Bills.

Councillor Moss commented that there would be different views in the Bath area and in North East Somerset especially with things such as walking to work (rural area

and city area). He suggested the possibility of incentivising responders. He stated that 72% have not responded so there needs to be caution. There is a section of society that are totally disengaged.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and officers.

78 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Panel noted their future workplan.

Councillor Blackburn suggested future items on procurement with regard to ADL and possible scrutiny regarding the bollards in the city centre.

The meeting ended at 5.47 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING:	23rd July 2024
TITLE:	Revenue & Capital Outturn 2023/24
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Appendix 1 - Revenue & Capital Outturn 2023/24 Cabinet Report</p> <p>Annex 1: Detailed Revenue Budget Outturn</p> <p>Annex 2: Detailed Capital Variance & Rephasing Requests 2023/24</p>	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The report was considered by the Cabinet at their 11th July 2024 meeting. It presents the revenue and capital outturn for 2023/24.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to;

2.1 Note and discuss the Revenue & Capital Outturn 2023/24 Report.

3 THE REPORT

3.1 The Revenue & Capital Outturn Cabinet Report 2023/24 and supporting detailed revenue and capital budget outturn are included as the appendices to the paper for Panel consideration.

3.2 The report identifies that, after allowing for carry forwards and transfers to and from reserves, the Council delivered an adverse revenue outturn position of £0.13m in 2023/24. The net over budget position of £0.13m, is proposed to be funded from the Revenue Budget Contingency Reserve, which is used to fund unbudgeted revenue pressures which are unable to be mitigated by management and recovery actions.

3.3 The capital spend in 2023/24 was £63.502m (77%) against a budget of £82.206m giving a variance of £18.704m, the variance mostly reflects the delivery of projects moving into future financial periods. Of this variance, £17.398m is requested for carry forward to 2024/25 to cover re-phased costs of capital projects. The balance of £1.306m represents net underspends that are removed from the programme.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The annual Medium-Term Financial Strategy and planning process allocates resources across services with alignment of these resources towards the Council's corporate priorities. This report monitors how the Council has performed against the budget and Capital Programme set in February 2023.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 These are contained throughout the attached report and appendices.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The substance of this report is part of the Council's risk management process. The key risks in the Council's budget were assessed by each Director, with these risks re-assessed regularly as part of the budget monitoring process.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget process aligns resources towards the corporate priorities and objectives set out in the Corporate Strategy, which includes tackling the climate emergency. This report monitors the Council's financial performance against those budgets.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The option to carry forward over budgeted spend could be considered which would mean that services would have to make up any deficits in 2024/25 with a considerable impact on service delivery especially in light of the challenging economic environment in 2024/25 and possibly beyond.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation on the Cabinet Report was carried out with the Cabinet Member for Resources, Directors, Section 151 Finance Officer, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	<i>Gary Adams – Head of Financial Management</i> Gary_Adams@bathnes.gov.uk Andy Rothery, Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer) Andy_Rothery@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	2023/24 Budget Monitoring reports to the Cabinet; Revenue and Capital Budget Setting reports;
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Bath & North East Somerset Council			
MEETING:	Cabinet		
MEETING DATE:	11 July 2024	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:	
		E	3543
TITLE:	Revenue & Capital Outturn 2023/24		
WARD:	All		
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM			
List of attachments to this report:			
Appendix 1: Detailed Revenue Budget Outturn			
Appendices 2(i) & 2(ii): Proposed Revenue Virements & Revised Revenue Cash Limits 2023/24			
Appendix 3: Detailed Capital Variance & Rephasing Requests 2023/24			
Appendices 4(i) & 4(ii): Capital Virements & Capital Programme by Portfolio 2023/24			

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The report presents the revenue and capital outturn for 2023/24, highlighting a material improvement in the position at year end with a minor adverse revenue outturn position of £0.13m after allowing for agreed transfers to/from reserves and carry forwards. This is an improvement of £1.71m from the reported position in the Quarter 3 forecast.
- 1.2 The report refers to requests to carry forward specific revenue budget items to 2024/25 and to write-off revenue over budgets where recovery in future years would have an adverse impact on continuing service delivery.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the £0.13m adverse variance is funded from the Revenue Budget Contingency earmarked reserve to give an on-budget position.
- 1.4 The report also refers to requests to re-phase specific capital budget items to 2024/25 and to remove net capital underspends.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to;

- 2.1 **Note the revenue budget outturn on budget position for 2023/24, after allowing for carry forwards and transfers to reserves.**
- 2.2 **Approve the revenue carry forward proposals listed in the tables in paragraph 3.7.**
- 2.3 **Approve that all other over budgets are written-off as an exception to the Budget Management Rules for 2023/24.**
- 2.4 **Approve the transfer of £0.13m from corporate earmarked reserves.**
- 2.5 **Note the revenue virements for 2023/24 reported for information in Appendix 2(i).**
- 2.6 **Note the reserve positions and the use of flexible capital receipts shown in paragraph 3.21.**
- 2.7 **Note the outturn position of the 2023/24 capital programme in paragraph 3.34, and the funding outlined in paragraph 3.36.**
- 2.8 **Approve the capital rephasing and write-off of net underspends as listed in Appendix 3. This reflects the outturn spend position on projects against final budgets as detailed in Appendix 4(ii).**

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 This report provides information about the Council's financial performance against its revenue and capital budgets in 2023/24.

Revenue Budgets

- 3.2 The report identifies that, after allowing for carry forwards and transfers to and from reserves, the Council delivered an adverse outturn position of £0.13m in 2023/24.
- 3.3 The table below shows the overall revenue outturn position by portfolio:

Portfolio	Revised Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance Over / (Under) £m
Leader of Council	(0.21)	(0.26)	(0.05)
Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1.48	1.35	(0.13)
Council Priorities and Delivery	7.91	7.60	(0.31)
Resources	6.02	1.74	(4.28)
Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development	(1.58)	(3.92)	(2.34)
Adult Services	66.87	68.26	1.39
Children's Services	41.09	46.14	5.05
Highways	(0.37)	(2.06)	(1.69)
Neighbourhood Services	25.95	27.65	1.70
Built Environment and Sustainable Development	2.84	3.28	0.44
Total (before Carry Forwards)	150.00	149.79	(0.21)
Carry Forward Requests (underspends)			0.34
Total (including Carry Forwards)			0.13

Note1: Some of the figures in this table are affected by rounding.

3.4 As a result of the £6.50m over budget forecast in Quarter 2 monitoring, urgent recovery action was put in place consisting of implementation of specific controls on recruitment to vacant posts and expenditure controls on all non-essential spend. In addition, Directors were tasked to actively develop mitigation plans to manage the in year financial position by year end. £6.6m of favourable movement between the Quarter 2 forecast and the outturn position was achieved by a combination of these service mitigations and corporate mitigations as shown in the table below.

Mitigation Actions	£m
Service Cost Recovery Mitigations (including vacancy and non-essential spend controls)	2.8
Corporate Mitigations (including capital financing, release of contingency and unbudgeted grant receipt)	3.8
Total	6.6

3.5 The main areas of over/under budget and change against the April to December (Q3) forecast financial position are as follows:

Leader of the Council (£0.05m under budget, £0.01m favourable movement)

Minor cost pressures relating to corporate subscriptions and city centre security were more than covered by interest receivable from the Council's Housing Delivery Vehicle.

Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel (£0.13m under budget, £0.10m adverse movement)

Recovery of staff costs from projects in the Environmental Monitoring team, along with staff vacancies and delayed discretionary spend within Green Transformation resulted in a favourable financial position for the portfolio.

Council Priorities and Delivery (£0.31m under budget, £0.28m favourable movement)

The primary reason for the favourable variance is due to the proposed carry forward of unspent 2024/25-2025/26 Ward Empowerment Scheme. Vacancy management across all services also contributed to the portfolio underspend.

Resources (£4.28m under budget, £2.42m favourable movement)

Borrowing costs were £1.87m less than budgeted, primarily due to slippage in spend on the Council's capital programme. This also contributed to a lower Minimum Revenue Provision charge (the charge to revenue made in respect of paying off the principal sum of the borrowing undertaken to finance the capital programme), which was £0.98m less than budgeted. Release of corporate contingencies (£0.92m) to support the Council's bottom line position, along with government grant income (£0.67m) mainly related to business rates which was notified late in the financial year resulted in corporate budgets coming in at a total favourable variance of £5.01m.

The IT Service ended the year with a £0.35m favourable variance resulting from in-year contract efficiencies and staffing underspends, while the Revenues and Benefits Service was able to maximise government grants to fund costs to achieve a £0.39m underspend. This helped offset overspends in Housing Benefit Subsidy (£0.96m) and Commercial Estate (£0.56m). High demand for temporary accommodation to reduce homelessness at a cost over and above the claimable subsidy was the fundamental reason for the Housing Benefit Subsidy adverse variance, while staffing pressures and service supported borrowing costs were key reasons for the Commercial Estate outturn position.

Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development (£2.34m under budget, £0.81m favourable movement)

Heritage Services' visitor numbers were in excess of budgeted levels for 2023/24, which combined with underspends on maintenance and investment budgets resulted in a service favourable variance of £2.88m. The Corporate Estate ended the year with an adverse variance of £0.2m due to high costs of running surplus / unoccupied buildings. Regeneration also ended the year with an adverse variance, primarily due to the holding costs of the Old Post Office in advance of the property generating a rental income for the organisation.

Adult Services (£1.39m over budget, £0.01m favourable movement)

The outturn position for Adult Social Care is an overspend variance of £1.393m after a transfer from the Adult Social Care reserve of £0.514m. Increased activity has been seen in 2023-24 with demand for package placements increasing by over 25%. The cost of care also continued to increase during the year due to the economic and market factors experienced through 2023/24 and the increasing complexity in care needs. The Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund Grant monies (MSIF £1.7m) has been used to support market sustainability in meeting the increasing fee rates seen. This funding continues in 2024-25. Arrangements for hospital discharges have continued and were jointly agreed with BSW ICB, making use of the various discharge grants received in 2023/24. These arrangements are planned to continue in 2024/25.

The level of future demand is expected to cause pressure that will see more people requiring support and rising cost pressures that providers face due both to general inflation and sector specific cost pressures. To balance this, work will continue with providers on issues to make the market more sustainable and on the delivery of the service transformation plans to ensure services can be provided to meet and sustain this demand.

Children's Services (£5.05m over budget, £0.59m adverse movement)

There are two main drivers of this over budget position, firstly the continuing cost and demand pressures from 2022/23 across the demand-led placement and package budgets, and secondly the increasing pressures from ongoing cost and demand increases across Home to School Transport (HTST).

Demand-led placement pressures are due to a mix of increased demand, especially around Residential, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) and increased packages of care and support costs needed, due to the increased needs our Children and Young People continue to present with. There are also continued increased costs because of the complex packages of care needed for those with the highest need in the Disabled Children's Team (DCT). In total these areas are £3.18m over budget. The biggest area of pressure is Residential (£1.22m over budget), this has been driven by an increase in numbers of placements because of the need to safeguard young people suffering criminal exploitation, in addition to an increased trend of young people suffering from emotional dysregulation and mental health. The other principal areas of pressure are DCT (£1.02m over budget), spend on packages of care to support those not in care to remain so (£0.81 over budget), UASC support (£0.51m over budget), Independent Foster Carers (£0.42m over budget) and Mother and Baby placements (£0.08m over budget). The complex needs funding stream underspend (Joint Agency Panel - JAP) offsets some of the DCT overspend, as young people who are no longer funded from JAP are funded now from DCT instead (JAP £0.91m under budget).

The £3.18m pressure across the demand-led budgets includes partial mitigation by an additional £1.00m in-year one-off savings. This is in addition to the £1.19m budgeted Transformation savings being delivered in 2023/24. The in-year savings are a result of focussed work across multiple areas such as reduction in the usage of Independent Foster Carers, holding vacancies, delayed spend and reduced agency usage versus 2022/23.

The Home to School Transport (HTST) service includes a £1.42m over budget position. This is due to significant pressure from ongoing market forces creating cost pressures when procuring HTST, including reduced availability of drivers, costs

inflation and reduced tendering activity for many routes. Pressures from Teachers Pensions of £0.16m (this is a new ongoing pressure), and staffing pressures (£0.33m over budget) across the SEN Team, Psychology Team and Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team also contributed to the adverse position. The aforementioned staffing pressures are primarily from the need to use agency staffing to respond to demand and cover vacancies.

Highways (£1.69m under budget, £0.25m favourable movement)

Parking income has exceeded budget across the majority of locations. This, combined with a number of staff vacancies, means the service ended the year with a £0.92m favourable budget position. Street-works income within the Network and Traffic Management service is also over and above budgeted levels, which combined with staffing underspends totalled a £0.55m favourable variance. Vacancies and reductions in running costs across Passenger Transport also contribute £0.31m to the portfolio underspend position.

The Clear Air Zone scheme sits within this portfolio and its performance to date is detailed in paragraph 3.19.

Neighbourhood Services (£1.70m over budget, £1.19m adverse movement)

Waste and Fleet Services ended the year with an adverse variance of £1.55m. Key reasons for the overspend were staffing costs to maintain service levels, and costs incurred as a result of moving to the new Pixash site. Underachievement of income in the Bereavement and Public Protection services has also contributed to the portfolio overspend outturn position.

Built Environment and Sustainable Development (£0.44m over budget, £0.14m favourable movement)

Underachievement of income across both Planning and Building Control services was the core reason for the adverse portfolio year-end position, although this did improve slightly in the last quarter.

3.6 Further detail of outturn budget variances is attached at Appendix 1.

Carry Forward Requests

3.7 The following carry forward requests have been made for approval:

Request and Reason for Request	£
<p>Corporate Strategy and Communications – Ward Empowerment Fund</p> <p>The Ward Empowerment Fund is a two-year scheme for Councillors to fund improvement schemes within their wards. The carry forward is required to take the remaining funds into the second year of the scheme.</p>	161,610
<p>Green Transformation – Renewable Energy Investment</p> <p>To cover existing planned work supporting the corporate priority on renewable energy, specifically covering legal advice for a proposed joint venture, a heat demand study underpinning test drilling for heat from mines, technical development of building decarbonisation plans, survey work for solar installation; and community energy development. Budget was not utilised during the year as a result of the discretionary expenditure freeze.</p>	55,000
<p>Children’s Services</p> <p>Carry forward of pooled budget balance for Youth Justice Service.</p>	66,206
<p>Community Safety – Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)</p> <p>Income held on behalf of four Unitary Authorities to fund costs associated with VRU staffing costs that cover both 2023/24 and 2024/25.</p>	22,989
<p>Revenue and Benefits – Financial Assistance</p> <p>To be used to provide additional financial assistance to residents on welfare benefits and/or in low income households with respect to the Council Tax Premium for 2024/25.</p>	15,000
<p>Heritage Services – Record’s Office Donation</p> <p>Income received late in the year from a legacy bequest to the Record’s Office that has yet to be spent.</p>	15,000
Total	335,805

3.8 After allowing for the above carry forwards, it is proposed that the net over budget position of £0.13m, is funded from the Revenue Budget Contingency Reserve, which is used to fund unbudgeted revenue pressures which are unable to be mitigated by management and recovery actions.

3.9 It is recommended that all other over budgets are written off as an exception to the Budget Management Scheme Rules to retain budget stability in 2024/25.

Delivery of Savings and Income Generation Budget Proposals

3.10 The 2023/24 revenue budget approved savings and income generation proposals of £14.38m. These savings were split into on-going base budget savings (£12.48m) and one-off 23/24 savings only (£1.90m). Of the total savings, 76% (£10.98m) have been delivered in full, 4% (£0.57m) have been mitigated by one-off underspends in year, with the remaining 20% delayed until 2024/25 or addressed through the budget setting proposals.

3.11 Of the on-going savings, 77% (£9.66m) were delivered in full, 5% (£0.57m) have been mitigated through savings elsewhere in the respective service, and 18% (£2.25m) of savings are delayed until 2024/25 or addressed through the budget setting proposals.

3.12 Of the one-off savings, 70% (£1.32m) were delivered in full, while 30% were not achieved.

Schools

3.13 The overall Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2023/24 was £177.104m, however of this sum £123.873m was returned to the Department For Education (DFE) to be allocated to Academies, £29.075m was allocated to schools through funding formula, with the remaining £24.596m (after the prior year overspend of £13.453m) retained by the Local Authority (LA) to support Special Educational Needs (SEND), Central Expenditure, and Early Years.

3.14 The centrally held elements of the DSG were over budget by £8.810m, due to significant increases in numbers and cost of placements for children with SEND which is funded from the High Needs Block within the DSG. This Overspend reflects the payment of £0.550m from the DFE as part of the Safety Valve Agreement plan (see below). This overspend will be carried forward along with the accumulated deficit on the DSG of £13.453m giving a total overspend to be carried forward of £22.263m. In line with Government guidance any overspend is carried forward for recovery against future DSG funding. Therefore, the LA cannot fund this pressure from its own General Fund revenue budget (unless permission is given by the Secretary of State to disregard the requirement to fund from the DSG). Year-end budgets have been adjusted to reflect the transfer of the £22.263m overspend into a specific unusable reserve for recovery against future DSG funding. This treatment is in line with recently announced Government guidance stating that DSG in-year and cumulative deficits should no longer be held as a negative earmarked reserve and should instead be held in an unusable reserve called the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account. This accounting treatment has the effect of separating DSG budget deficits from the LA's General Fund and, following the recently announced extension, covers the period to 31st March 2026.

3.15 In March 2023 the LA entered into a Safety Valve Agreement recovery plan to bring spending in line with budget over the next 6 years with the DFE. The Safety Valve Agreement is a process set up to support Local Authorities with DSG deficits, whereby the LA will show its ability to ensure that spending is controlled within the DSG and the DFE will look to support the accumulated overspend. The agreement signed by the LA and the DFE sets out the recovery of the cumulative overspend with the DFE providing additional funding to the LA as set out in the table below. However, as we have not

achieved the targets of our plan, the DFE require us to submit a revised version, so also shown below are the payments received to date.

Year	The DFE agrees to pay to the LA the additional £m of DSG by each year-end (Original Safety Valve Agreement)	Actual payments received to date £m
2022/23	£7.68m	£7.68m
2023/24	£1.65m	£0.55m
2024/25	£1.65m	TBC
2025/26	£1.65m	TBC
2026/27	£1.65m	TBC
2027/28	£1.65m	TBC
2028/29	£3.29m	TBC
Total	£19.22m	TBC

3.16 To date, the LA has received £8.23m and the DFE will reprofile the remaining payments over the length of the new arrangement once it has been agreed.

3.17 The seven schools maintained by the LA have balances that have increased by £0.356m to £1.190m at the year-end. This increase is partly due to some schools building up balances for capital projects in future years. These balances are closely monitored by Schools Forum which has adopted an excessive balances policy in line with continued DFE best practise guidance. All schools with balances deemed to be excessive are challenged to explain their position.

Public Health

3.18 The Public Health budget is currently ringfenced. The year-end outturn was in line with the value of the grant funding, resulting in a balanced position against the value of this funding, including transfers to the Public Health reserve of £0.037m. The revised balance held in the reserve is £0.608m as at 31st March 2024. Budgets have been adjusted to reflect the transfer from reserves.

Clean Air Zone

3.19 The Clean Air Zone (CAZ) has generated £15.99m operational income since its launch (15 March 2021- 31 March 2024). This is comprised of £6.75m daily charges paid in time, with a further £9.24m generated by penalty charge notice (PCN) surcharges for non-payment of daily charges and through retrospective recovery as part of the PCN scheme. Grant income associated with the early years of the scheme was £3.14m. In terms of operating income associated with 2023/24, £1.75m was received in daily charges and £2.39m in PCN surcharges and retrospective recovery. 2023/24 CAZ operating costs totalled £2.38m bringing whole scheme operating costs since launch to £8.39m.

3.20 After operational costs & decommissioning provisions are met, surplus CAZ proceeds are ringfenced for transport investment or air quality related schemes as referenced

within the [CAZ charging order](#). By 31 March 2024, £4.33m has been added to smoothing and decommissioning reserves for future year costs; the CAZ revenue re-investment reserve stands at £6.25m, having already used £0.16m for projects to date. All £6.25m of the current balance has been allocated to future projects: £2.5m (over two years) funding B&NES' contribution to City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) together with £3.75m supporting capital transport spending and associated air quality projects. Future year's budgets currently estimate a further £0.95m will be available for reinvestment, bringing the investment reserve balance to £7.2m, which has been allocated to further support future transport initiatives.

Reserves and Flexible Capital Receipts

3.21 The year-end position of earmarked reserves, taking into account the 2023/24 outturn, are shown in the table below.

Council's Earmarked Reserves	2022/23	2023/24	Movt
	£'m	£'m	£m
Corporate Earmarked Reserves			
Insurance Fund	1.041	1.076	0.035
Capital Financing Reserve	10.214	11.663	1.449
Revenue Budget Contingency	3.469	3.348	(0.121)
Transformation Investment Reserve	1.887	1.400	(0.487)
Business Rates Reserve	1.301	10.148	8.847
City Deal Smoothing Reserve	2.203	2.993	0.790
Restructuring & Severance Reserve	1.806	4.883	3.076
Financial Planning and Smoothing Reserve	3.200	2.842	(0.358)
Public Health Grant Reserve	0.571	0.608	0.037
Community Empowerment Fund	0.324	0.324	0.000
Revenue Grants Unapplied	4.712	1.038	(3.674)
Revenue Funding of Capital Reserve	0.616	0.896	0.281
Covid19 Outbreak Management Fund Grant Reserve	0.308	0.086	(0.223)
Covid 19 Test & Trace Reserve	0.152	0.000	(0.152)
Covid 19 General Reserve	3.354	1.005	(2.349)
City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Contribution Reserve	3.000	3.000	0.000
Energy Inflation Reserve	1.082	0.450	(0.632)
Other	0.601	0.358	(0.242)
Sub Total	39.840	46.115	6.276
Schools Balances	0.834	1.191	0.357
Service Specific Reserves	1.893	4.436	2.543
General Service Reserves	28.257	21.909	(6.348)
Total Earmarked Reserves	70.824	73.652	2.827

Reserve balances excludes any 2024/25 transfers agreed as part of the 2024/25 Budget Report and the transfers proposed in paragraph 3.8.

Note: Some of the figures in this table are affected by rounding.

3.22 The year-end position of uncommitted non-earmarked reserves was £12.6m in line with the risk assessed requirements of a range of £11.6m to £12.8m agreed in the 2023/24 Budget Report.

Flexible Use of Capital Receipts

3.23 Council approved a revised Efficiency Strategy in February 2024 as part of the 2024/25 budget. This enables the authority to utilise capital receipts for one-off spend such as severance costs that result in the delivery of ongoing savings. Flexible capital receipts of £1.481m were utilised in 2023/24 taking the total used to £9.732m and it is estimated that this spend will contribute to the release of ongoing revenue savings of £15.355m by the end of 2024/25. Further details of spend and savings are shown in the following tables.

Category	Spend			
	2017/18 - 2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Restructuring & Severance Costs	7.375	0.162	1.481	9.018
Procurement, Commissioning and other service redesign	0.714	0.000	0.000	0.714
Total	8.089	0.162	1.481	9.732

Category	Cumulative Savings			
	2017/18 - 2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Restructuring & Severance Costs	6.219	6.387	6.525	9.065
Procurement, Commissioning and other service redesign	6.290	6.290	6.290	6.290
Total	12.509	12.677	12.815	15.355

Council Tax, Business Rates and Collection Fund

Council Tax

- 3.24 The 2023/24 tax base allowed for the same number of Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) recipients as at the end of November 2022 to continue into 2023/24 with budgeted costs of LCTS set at £10.26m. The cost at the end of March was £10.09m. This is £0.17m below the budget estimate and has contributed to a Council Tax surplus at year end. The number of working age claimants at the end of March was 5,794 compared to the budget assumption of 5,803 and the number of Pensioner claimants was 3,353 compared to the budget assumption of 3,469.
- 3.25 The non LCTS elements of the Collection Fund also ended the year in a favourable position, with a surplus of £0.39m mainly due to an increase in chargeable dwellings and lower than forecast increase in the bad debt provision.
- 3.26 Taking all these factors into account, the final in-year surplus on the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax is £0.56m, of which the Council's share is £0.46m. This represents a positive variance of 0.4% against the 2023/24 forecast council tax income.
- 3.27 The Council's share of the final position on the Collection Fund, including the net deficit carried forward from 2022/23, is a surplus of £0.12m. This represents an improvement of £0.37m from the estimated deficit provision of £0.25m made in the 2024/25 Budget Report.

Business Rates

- 3.28 The outturn position for the Business Rate element of the collection fund is a surplus of £5.63m. The table below shows the Council's share of the surplus is £5.29m, which represents an improvement over the Quarter 3 forecast position of £5.34m.

Business Rates Collection Fund	Outturn Position		Qtr3 Forecast		Change
	Total (£m)	B&NES Share (£m)	Total (£m)	B&NES Share (£m)	B&NES Share (£m)
Business Rates (Excl Appeals Provision)	0.99	0.93	0.39	0.36	0.56
Appeals Provision	(5.95)	(5.59)	0.33	0.31	(5.91)
In Year (Surplus) / Deficit	(4.97)	(4.67)	0.72	0.68	(5.34)
2022/23 Surplus carried Forward	(0.66)	(0.62)	(0.66)	(0.62)	0.00
Total (Surplus) / Deficit	(5.63)	(5.29)	0.06	0.06	(5.34)

- 3.29 The main reason for the improved position is due to a one-off release of £5.99m from the provision held for appeals against the 2017 rating list. Following the closure of the 2017 rating list on 31st March 2023 the VOA has been assessing the checks,

challenges and appeals made against the list. There were over 300 checks and challenges against the rateable value (RV) of business properties in the Council area outstanding at the start of the financial year. This has reduced to 34 outstanding challenges by year end and the revised estimate of appeals impact on these has resulted in the release from the provision.

3.30 Section 31 grant income to revenue from business rate compensation grants ended the year £2.6m above budget, this relates to increased relief granted in respect of Retail Relief, Supporting Small Business Rate Relief and compensation for the cost of capping and freezing the business rate multiplier. This is partly offset by £0.5m payable to the City Region Deal Business Rate Pool to give a forecast net favourable revenue budget position of £2.1m. This balance has been transferred to the Business Rate Reserve in line with the approach for managing surpluses and deficits on business rate income as set out in the Budget Report.

3.31 The balance on the Business Rate Reserve as at 31st March 2024 was £10.1m which equates to around 14% of the annual rates income (excluding retail relief).

Overall Collection Fund

3.32 The following table shows the overall estimated position, for which provision was made in the 2024/25 Budget Report, and the actual outturn position for the Council share of the Collection Fund for 2023/24. These figures exclude preceptor shares:-

	Estimated (Surplus)/ Deficit £'m	Actual (Surplus)/ Deficit £'m	Difference £'m
Council Tax	0.249	(0.123)	(0.372)
Business Rates	0.057	(5.287)	(5.344)
Total	0.306	(5.410)	(5.716)

3.33 At an overall level, the outturn position on the Collection Fund improved by £5.716m over the estimated position. The overall difference will be taken into consideration when estimating the closing 2024/25 Collection Fund position as part of the 2025/26 Budget process.

Capital Programme

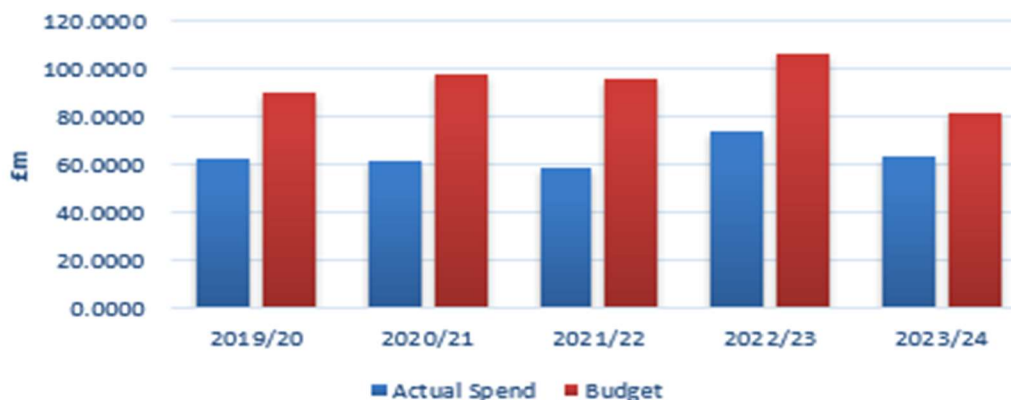
3.34 The capital spend in 2023/24 was £63.502m (77%) against a budget of £82.206m giving a variance of £18.704m, the variance mostly reflects the delivery of projects moving into future financial periods.

Portfolio Summary	2023/2024 Outturn Position			
	Capital Budget £'m	Outturn £'m	Variance £'m	Rephasing to 2024/25 Requested £'m
Leader	0.734	0.497	(0.237)	0.237
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	2.187	1.759	(0.428)	0.428
Resources	10.464	6.245	(4.220)	3.954
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development	12.582	8.296	(4.287)	3.277
Children's Services	3.940	1.148	(2.793)	2.793
Adult Services	2.533	2.214	(0.319)	0.293
Highways	18.366	14.883	(3.483)	3.483
Neighbourhood Services	25.942	24.022	(1.921)	1.915
Built Environment & Sustainable Development	5.458	4.439	(1.018)	1.018
Total	82.206	63.502	(18.704)	17.398

Note: Some of the figures in this table are affected by rounding.

3.35 Of this variance, £17.398m is requested for carry forward to 2024/25 to cover re-phased costs of capital projects. The balance of £1.306m represents net underspends that are removed from the programme. These include an underspend of £1.009m on the Bath Western Riverside project reflecting project savings and receipt of WECA grant for landscaping work and underspends of £0.136m on Keynsham Memorial Park Bridge, £0.130m Office Reconfiguration and £0.026m on the Leisure facilities modernisation as these projects have now reached completion. The detailed outturn position and re-phasing of each individual project is attached at Appendix 3. The delivery of the capital spend compared to budget over the last five years is shown in the following graph:

Capital Programme Spend vs Budget Last 5 Years



3.36 The funding of the capital programme for 2023/24 is as follows:-

	£'m
Total Capital Spending:	63.502
Funded by:	
Capital Receipts	2.356
Capital Grants	17.876
3 rd Party Receipts (inc S106 & CIL)	5.312
Revenue	0.928
Prudential Borrowing (Implied Need)	37.030
Total	63.502

3.37 The Council's provisional Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31st March 2024 is £367.6 million. This represents the Council's requirement to borrow to finance capital expenditure and demonstrates that total borrowing of £246 million remains well below this requirement as at 31st March 2024. This illustrates the extent to which the Council is currently cash-flowing capital projects in line with the Treasury Management Strategy to minimise borrowing costs.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The annual Medium-Term Financial Strategy and planning process allocates resources across services with alignment of these resources towards the Council's corporate priorities. This report monitors how the Council has performed against the budget and Capital Programme set in February 2023.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 These are contained throughout the report and appendices.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The substance of this report is part of the Council's risk management process. The key risks in the Council's budget were assessed by each Director, with these risks re-assessed regularly as part of the budget monitoring process.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget process aligns resources towards the corporate priorities and objectives set out in the Corporate Strategy, which includes tackling the climate emergency. This report monitors the Council's financial performance against those budgets.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The option to carry forward over budgeted spend could be considered which would mean that services would have to make up any deficits in 2024/25 with a considerable impact on service delivery especially in light of the challenging economic environment in 2024/25 and possibly beyond.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Resources, Directors, Section 151 Finance Officer, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer.

9.2 The provisional outturn position has been discussed at Executive Leadership Team and Corporate Management Team in May.

Contact person	Paul Webb – Paul_Webb@bathnes.gov.uk ; Gary Adams – Gary_Adams@bathnes.gov.uk ; Andy Rothery – Andy_Rothery@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	2023/24 Budget Monitoring reports to the Cabinet; Revenue and Capital Budget Setting reports; Budget Management Scheme
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Portfolio Number and Description	Cashlimit Number and Description	Current Budget £000	Actuals to date £000	2023/24 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis
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Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Leader of Council

P04	Leader of Council	1112	Housing Delivery Vehicle	(1,000)	(1,077)	(77)	Income received via the dividend payment of £848k and interest income payments of £229k, exceeded budget.
P04	Leader of Council	1119	Emergency Planning	698	706	8	No material variance
P04	Leader of Council	1136	External Affairs & Partnerships	88	108	20	Key external subscriptions for Sustainable Communities and the Council (Key Cities and Western Gateway) over budget.
P04	Leader of Council			(214)	(263)	(49)	

Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel

P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1127	Environmental Monitoring (Air Pollution)	201	69	(131)	Favourable staffing variance due to vacancies and recovery of staff time charged to projects
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1135	Transport Planning, Policy and Sustainable Transport	415	505	90	The majority of the overspend relates to unachieved income, and an increase in consultant costs to cover statutory work, due to vacancies within the Transport Policy & Development Team. This is partially offset with project recharges.
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1137	Green Transformation	866	779	(87)	Delayed discretionary spend along with staffing underspends from late recruitment.
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel Total			1,481	1,354	(128)	

Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Council Priorities and Delivery

P32	Council Priorities and Delivery	1047	Human Resources & Organisational Development	2,588	2,534	(54)	Favourable variance resulting primarily from the Health and Safety department for staff vacancies, and for managing the training budget robustly.
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery	1130	Corporate Governance	2,017	1,964	(53)	GIS income over and above budget, and staff vacancies in the Executive Support team are the two main contributors to the favourable outturn position.
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery	1131	Corporate Strategy and Communications	1,940	1,738	(202)	The underspend position includes a request to carry forward £162k unspent funding from the Ward Empowerment Scheme into 2024/25 (year 2 of 2 of the scheme). There are also underspends due to staff vacancies and overachievement of income / staff funded by the Homes for Ukraine grant funding.
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery	1132	Business Change	1,367	1,367	0	No variance reported
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery Total			7,912	7,604	(309)	

Appendix 1 - Revenue Monitoring Commentary Outturn 2023/24

Portfolio Number and Description		Cashlimit Number and Description		Current Budget £000	Actuals to date £000	2023/24 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Resources							
P19	Resources	1032	Information Technology	5,923	5,574	(350)	The favourable variance is derived from staff vacancies and contract efficiencies following the agreement of cost recovery plans to mitigate the Council's over budget position.
P19	Resources	1040	Finance	2,787	2,786	(0)	No material variance.
P19	Resources	1041	Revenues & Benefits	2,063	1,672	(392)	The favourable variance is a result of Council tax recovery activities, holding vacancies and where appropriate charging staffing resource to government grants.
P19	Resources	1042	Risk & Assurance Services	1,441	1,406	(35)	Favourable position is driven by increased levels of external client work and income.
P19	Resources	1053	Council Solicitor & Democratic Services	3,134	3,211	77	B&NES Council elections cost more than budgeted, while service wide efficiency savings have not been fully realised.
P19	Resources	1054	Hsg / Council Tax Benefits Subsidy	(195)	767	962	On-going budget pressure due to temporary accommodation being provided at a cost higher than the claimable subsidy.
P19	Resources	1055	Capital Financing / Interest	3,350	(47)	(3,397)	There was £1,870k underbudget spend on borrowing costs, mainly due to reprofiling of borrowing requirements throughout the year, along with a one-off release from the Balance Sheet in relation to the valuation of the £10m LOBO that was repaid during the year.
							In addition, there was a £980k underspend against the budget for MRP (Minimum Revenue Provision), following the final calculation of the 2023/24 charge. Income from investment interest was £560k in excess of budgeted levels mainly due to the increases in interest rates since the budget was set. There was also a small under budget position on the Ex-Avon Debt repayments.
P19	Resources	1056	Unfunded Pensions	1,388	1,448	60	Corporately funded element of backdated pension increase.
P19	Resources	1057	Corporate Budgets including Capital, Audit and Bank Charges	(7,748)	(9,494)	(1,746)	From the Revenue Contingency budget, £500k remained unused at year-end, along with £420k from other earmarked contingency & inflation budgets. There was additional income of £150k from the Bath Spa profit share, along with £285k from a Business Rates Tariff Adjustment. Two unbudgeted grants totalling £388k were also received at the end of the year. There were other small variances including higher than budgeted E-Payment and Apprenticeship Levy expenditure. These were off-set by lower than budgeted spend on audit fees, along with one-off income received from a settlement.
P19	Resources	1058	Magistrates	12	7	(5)	No material variance
P19	Resources	1059	Coroners	475	516	41	The over budget position is a result of inflationary pressures and increased costs in deceased transportation.
P19	Resources	1060	Environment Agency	258	258	0	No variance reported
P19	Resources	1061	West of England Combined Authority Levy	5,194	5,194	0	No material variance
P19	Resources	1081	Commercial Estate	(12,411)	(11,846)	565	The key reasons for the adverse variance was an increase in service supported borrowing costs, unrecoverable staff recharges to capital projects mainly due to lack of disposals, an increase in bad debt provision together with an unbudgeted VAT pressure.
P19	Resources	1118	Procurement & Commissioning	351	294	(57)	The service has vacancies within the team which has generated an underspend for the year.
P19	Resources Total			6,023	1,745	(4,278)	

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Appendix 1 - Revenue Monitoring Commentary Outturn 2023/24

Portfolio Number and Description		Cashlimit Number and Description		Current Budget £000	Actuals to date £000	2023/24 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development							
P33	Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1018	Heritage Services	(8,233)	(11,112)	(2,879)	Outturn reflects above budgeted visitor numbers at the Roman Baths, which translated into strong income delivery. There was an overspend on employee costs, due to the higher than budgeted pay award. Retail cost of sales were above budget, due to the additional income. There was an underspend in maintenance and investment. The outturn was within 5% of the Quarter 3 forecast.
P33	Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1037	Property Services	646	667	21	Small overspend on project delivery running costs.
P33	Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1038	Corporate Estate Including R&M	4,865	5,070	204	On-going surplus and un-occupied buildings meant estate running costs remained high, resulting in the target to reduce corporate estate operating costs of £500k through rationalising and reducing assets not being achieved. Cleaning and security services costs also contributed to the adverse financial position. The overspend has been partially mitigated by income from solar panel installations across the corporate office buildings, and prioritising urgent reactive maintenance only.
P33	Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1039	Traded Services	0	4	4	No material variance.
P33	Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1052	Regeneration	53	423	370	The adverse position primarily relates to holding/running costs for the Old Post Office building in advance of the property generating an income, which has partially been offset by a favourable net income position on No.1 Bath Quays South.
P33	Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1109	World Heritage	127	107	(20)	Minor underspend on project expenditure / fees.
P33	Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1121	Events and Active Lifestyles	472	508	36	Adverse position on Film Office due to an unbudgeted VAT charge.
P33	Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1126	Visit Bath	81	81	0	No variance reported.
P33	Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1128	Business & Skills	404	331	(74)	Favourable staffing variance, higher income than budgeted relating to staff recharges and historical projects, partially offset by closure costs for Wansdyke Business Centre.
P33	Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development Total			(1,584)	(3,921)	(2,337)	
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Adult Services							
P20	Adult Services	1019	Leisure	259	260	1	No material variance.
P20	Adult Services	1036	Adults Substance Misuse (DAT)	69	71	2	No material variance.
P20	Adult Services	1073	Adults & Older People-Mental Health Commissioning	9,076	8,562	(514)	The favourable variance is derived from staff vacancies and increased income contributions.
P20	Adult Services	1086	Adult Care Commissioning	1,165	1,087	(79)	One-off in-year savings linked to staff vacancies and impact of non essential spending freeze.
P20	Adult Services	1088	Older People & Physically Disabled Purchasing	12,004	13,084	1,080	Demand for services rose by over 25% during the last year, much of this linked to supporting hospital discharge.
P20	Adult Services	1091	Learning Disabilities Commissioning	15,851	18,639	2,788	Continuation of significant cost increases have been experienced in Supported Living and Residential services resulting in an underlying adverse variance of £2.8m. The joint review of the funding sources within the Pooled arrangements had not delivered the expected outcome and the forecast adverse variance of £2.8m recognises this. The budget has benefited from additional income from the Better Care Fund and MSIF (Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund) totalling £1.5m.
P20	Adult Services	1093	Physical Disability, Hearing & Vision	3,499	3,207	(292)	Robust contract management has resulted in a one off cost savings and a positive change in contracting arrangements

Appendix 1 - Revenue Monitoring Commentary Outturn 2023/24

Portfolio Number and Description	Cashlimit Number and Description	Current Budget £000	Actuals to date £000	2023/24 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis
P20 Adult Services	1094 Public Health	162	162	0	No variance reported
P20 Adult Services	1110 Better Care Fund	12,773	12,081	(691)	Underspends in various schemes funded through the Better Care Fund Pool. All schemes have been reviewed for 2024-25.
P20 Adult Services	1113 CCG B&NES CHC and FNC Payments	0	0	0	No variance reported
P20 Adult Services	1114 Community Equipment	254	254	0	Demand pressures linked to supporting independence and hospital discharge have been met from discharge grant provided by DHSC.
P20 Adult Services	1123 Safeguarding Adults	2,594	2,534	(60)	Small favourable balance resulting from various package movements
P20 Adult Services	1124 Community Resource Centres & Extra Care Income	9,162	8,321	(841)	The repurposing of Charlton House has allowed the service to fill vacancies and reduce spend on agency staff. In addition a strong focus on securing fee income has helped to create savings against budget.
P20 Adult Services Total		66,869	68,262	1,393	

Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Children's Services

Page 24	P21 Children's Services	1076 Children, Young People & Families	17,618	20,983	3,365	£3.2m pressure across all demand led budget areas. This pressure occurs as follows; Residential Care £1.2m, Disabled Children Care (DCC) £1m, spend to support those not in care £0.8m, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children Care (UASC) £0.5m, Independent Foster Care £0.4m, and Parent & Baby Care £0.1m. These overspends are reduced by £0.9m lower spend versus our contingent budget for costs of the Joint Agency Pool (JAP). It should be noted that the reduced spend in JAP has a strong correlation with increased spend in DCC, as this is where support and care for our most complex children will be funded from, if not in JAP. There is also £0.2m staffing pressures as a result of the need to cover vacancies with more expensive agency workers. These pressures are net of £0.8m in-year mitigations, and include the delivery of £1.2m budgeted transformation savings across the demand led budget areas. £1.9m demand led budget pressures continued from 22/23, due to ongoing increased demand and complexity of supporting our children and young people.
	P21 Children's Services	1077 Inclusion & Prevention	2,669	2,425	(244)	Underspend across the service area due to one off vacancies and delayed expenditure.
	P21 Children's Services	1078 Education Transformation	11,262	13,093	1,831	Main pressure £1.42m from Home to School Transport (HTST) costs; primarily due to inflationary increases. £0.16m pressure relating to Teacher's Pensions. Balance of pressure driven by agency use in the Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Team and SEN Team, which has been needed to cover vacancies and respond to demand.
	P21 Children's Services	1079 Schools Budgets	6,753	6,753	0	Although Dedicated School Grant (DSG) shows a balanced position, the deficit carried into this year on the balance sheet was £13.45m. This historical deficit and in year overspends are being address via the Safety Value Agreement in conjunction with the Department for Education (DFE) over a 6 year period. In 2022/23 the first payment from the DFE of £7.68m was received and further payment in 2023/24 of £0.55m has been received. The DFE have requested a revised plan before any further payments are made as targets have not been achieved in line with the original plan. The new plan is being negotiated with the DFE at present and will be agreed during the next few months. The overspend on the DSG for 23/24 is £8.81m which leaves an overall cumulative deficit balance of £22.26m held on the councils balance sheet in accordance with Government guidance on the treatment of DSG balances.
	P21 Children's Services	1116 Integrated Commissioning - CYP	2,698	2,801	104	Increased contract costs to ensure statutory services are provided.
	P21 Children's Services	1117 Safeguarding - CYP	90	89	(1)	Underspend in budgeted training spend.
	P21 Children's Services Total		41,090	46,144	5,054	

Appendix 1 - Revenue Monitoring Commentary Outturn 2023/24

Portfolio Number and Description		Cashlimit Number and Description		Current Budget £000	Actuals to date £000	2023/24 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Highways							
P34	Highways	1103	Transport & Parking Services - Parking	(8,454)	(9,374)	(920)	Income levels for on street and off street parking have exceeded budget across the majority of locations, reduced due to pressures on Bus Lane income and Penalty Charge Notice income. This is partly mitigated by staff savings, due to vacancy management. Overall this favourable position has been reduced due to the repayment of borrowing costs and an under recovery of Financial Assistance Scheme Framework Income.
P34	Highways	1104	Public & Passenger Transport	764	455	(309)	Vacancy Management saving within passenger transport, and a small saving on rental costs and other expenditure across the service.
P34	Highways	1129	Clean Air Zone	0	0	0	Income levels are now showing indications of anticipated downturn due to improvements in vehicle compliance as expected with the scheme, however still just exceeding budget levels due to continuing higher levels of penalty charge income and debt recovery. As the scheme moves into the final stage of the original project timeline without a confirmed replacement scheme, the levels of income will continue to fall removing any surplus and increasing the call on the reserve. Service resources overall will reduce to match the workload.
P34	Highways	1133	Network & Traffic Management	829	275	(554)	Continuation of increased income across Streetworks and Traffic Management, and savings due to vacancy management.
P34	Highways	1134	Highway Maintenance	6,488	6,581	93	An adverse position due to increased costs of winter reactive maintenance, partially reduced by vacancy management.
P34	Highways Total			(374)	(2,062)	(1,689)	
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Neighbourhood Services							
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1089	Community Safety	198	169	(29)	The favourable outturn position is a result of holding income for the Violence Reduction Unit work between the 4 Unitary Authorities (B&NES, Bristol, South Glos and North Somerset). This income requires carrying forward to 2024/25 and as such is included in the carry forward requests listed in the Cabinet report.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1101	Neighbourhoods & Environment - Waste & Fleet Services	19,565	21,115	1,550	The adverse outturn position is due to increased absence levels across the service, resulting in increased staffing costs in order to maintain service levels. Further pressures materialised after Quarter 3 as a result of the move to Pixash, this included a reduction in income, unbudgeted costs for equipment, increased staffing and vehicle costs during transfer to new site. Further cost pressures include the dilapidations costs for the old recycling depot.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1102	Neighbourhoods & Environment - Parks & Bereavement Services	2,104	2,313	209	Adverse year-end position for income in bereavement services due to a reduction in the death rate. This has been slightly reduced through vacancy management and in year savings. Minor movements across other areas.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1115	Registrars Service	(58)	(174)	(115)	The favourable year-end variance is a direct result of overachievement of budgeted income targets.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1122	Customer Services (Including Libraries)	2,978	2,945	(33)	Staff vacancies and underspends on discretionary service spend in the Mailroom, Hybrid Mail, and Telephony teams, were partially offset by higher than budget utilities costs in Bath Central Library, and reduced external contributions supporting the One Stop Shops. The latter issue has been resolved in the 2024/25 budget.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1139	Public Protection	1,168	1,282	114	The adverse position on Public Protection is due to the underachievement of Pest Control, Dog Warden and Licensing income.
P05	Neighbourhood Services Total			25,955	27,651	1,696	

Portfolio Number and Description		Cashlimit Number and Description		Current Budget £000	Actuals to date £000	2023/24 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Built Environment and Sustainable Development							
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development	1029	Housing	1,355	1,331	(24)	Utilisation of grant income to cover costs resulted in a small favourable variance for the service area.
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development	1106	Development Management	1,431	1,664	233	The adverse outturn position is largely due to the underachievement of Planning income. This reflects the national picture of relatively low numbers of applications caused by challenging economic conditions. Overspend partly offset by savings generated by vacancy freeze.
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development	1138	Building Control	53	283	231	Pressures on Building Control and Land charges income due to current market conditions, slightly reduced due to reduction in expenditure.
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development Total			2,838	3,278	440	
Council Total (before carry forward requests)				149,996	149,791	(205)	
Carry Forward Requests						336	
Council Total (after carry forward requests)						131	

Approved Schemes - Detailed Capital Variance and Re-phasing Requests from 2023/24 into 2024/25

REF: 2023/24

Capital Scheme	Final Budget at Outturn	Outturn 23/24	Variance (Budget vs Outturn)	Re-phase Request	Comments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Full Approval Resources					
Agresso System Development & Upgrade	36	33	4	4	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Capital Contingency	2,542	0	2,542	2,542	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Cleveland Pools Grant	84	8	76	76	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Commercial Estate Refurbishment Programme	2,060	1,754	306	306	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Customer Payments Security and Channel shift	18	17	1	1	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Flax Bourton Mortuary Extension	175	175	0	0	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (Transformation)	1,249	1,481	-232	-232	Rolling programme, reflects more progress then anticipated with recovery from 2024/25
IT Asset Refresh	692	449	243	243	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Keynsham Memorial Park Bridge	651	505	146	10	Scheme largely complete, minor re-phasing to 2024/25 and release of project savings
Keynsham Regeneration & New Build	68	0	68	68	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Office Reconfiguration Costs (project - Preparing for the future)	135	0	135	5	Scheme largely complete, minor re-phasing to 2024/25 and release of project savings
Orange Grove	295	187	108	108	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Preparing for the Future - New Technology	526	271	256	256	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Property Company Investment - Council (Loan): Developments	1,600	1,290	310	310	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Property Disposals (Disposals Programme (Minor))	313	68	245	245	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Saw Close RIF Repayment	19	6	12	12	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Subtotal Full Approval - Resources	10,464	6,245	4,220	3,954	
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development					
Bath City Centre Renewal Programme	1,009	225	784	784	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Bath Central Riverside	20	0	20	20	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Bath Quays Bridge, Linking Infrastructure & South	0	-10	10	10	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Bath Quays North	785	-31	816	816	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Bath Quays South, Bridge & Linking Infrastructure	367	148	220	220	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
BWR Phase 2	3,442	1,430	2,012	1,002	Release of savings from Pipe Bridge works and landscaping attracting grant. Also Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Carrswood Day Centre Roof	44	30	14	14	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance	2,600	3,221	-620	-620	Rolling programme, reflects more progress then anticipated with recovery from 2024/25
Corporate Property Acquisition	43	236	-193	-193	Overspend for recovery in 2024/25
Digital B&NES	382	278	104	104	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Equality Act Works	31	31	-1	-1	Rolling programme, recovery from 2024/25
Haycombe Cemetery Top Chapel Refurbishment	98	101	-2	-2	Overspend for recovery in 2024/25
Heritage Collections Centre	110	82	28	28	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Heritage Infrastructure Development	230	158	72	72	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Heritage Services Energy Capture Scheme	0	44	-44	-44	Multi year scheme; recovery from 2024/25
High Street Recovery	0	32	-32	-32	Multi year scheme; recovery from 2024/25
Innovation Quay - Strategic Flooding Solution	358	358	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
Keynsham High Street Renewal Programme	421	416	5	5	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Local Centres Renewal Programme	44	4	41	41	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Midsomer Norton High Street Renewal Programme	724	867	-143	-143	Multi year scheme; recovery from 2024/25
Milsom Quarter Masterplan Delivery	262	108	154	154	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
North Keynsham SDL - External Fees	540	25	514	514	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Radstock and Westfield Implementation Plan	3	0	3	3	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Radstock Healthy Living Centre	69	48	21	21	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Radstock Regeneration	240	95	145	145	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Refurb of Roman Baths Shop	50	54	-4	-4	Overspend for recovery in 2024/25
Somer Valley Enterprise Zone - Infrastructure	693	345	348	348	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
York Street Vaults Phase 2	16	0	16	16	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Subtotal Full Approval - Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development	12,582	8,296	4,287	3,277	
Leader					
Bath Area Forum - CIL Funded Schemes - Approved	734	497	237	237	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Subtotal Full Approval - Leader	734	497	237	237	

Capital Scheme	Final Budget at Outturn	Outturn 23/24	Variance (Budget vs Outturn)	Re-phase Request	Comments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel					
Active Travel Prescribing Project	95	72	23	23	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Bath River Line	170	107	63	63	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Bathscape	18	27	-9	-9	Multi year scheme; recovery from 2024/25
Canal Tow Path: Bathwick Hill to Deeplock, Widcombe	94	94	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
Cleeve Court and Combe Lea Heating Upgrades	660	643	17	17	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Clutton Depot Solar Panels	79	79	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
CRSTS Bristol Bath Strategic Corridor (BBSC)	51	0	51	51	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
CRSTS Cycling and Walking Design and Business Case	740	566	174	174	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
CRSTS - Midsomer Norton & Westfield, Walking, Wheeling & Cycling Links	10	5	5	5	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Cycle Hangers	81	67	14	14	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Renewable Energy Development Fund	79	22	57	57	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Renewable energy in B&NES	67	67	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
Somer Valley Rediscovered	43	11	32	32	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Subtotal Full Approval - Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	2,187	1,759	428	428	
Built Environment & Sustainable Development					
Affordable Housing	398	466	-68	-68	Rolling programme, recovery from 2024/25
Englishcombe Lane Supported Housing	181	293	-112	-112	Multi year scheme; recovery from 2024/25
Housing Delivery Vehicle/ Schemes (Capital Disposals ADL)	120	1	119	119	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Local Authority Housing Fund (Ukrainian/Afghan homes)	2,062	1,649	413	413	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Next Steps Accommodation Programme	14	21	-7	-7	Multi year scheme; recovery from 2024/25
Social Rent Programme	1,966	1,397	570	570	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Supported Housing Scheme	716	612	104	104	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Subtotal Full Approval - Built Environment & Sustainable Development	5,458	4,439	1,018	1,018	
Adult Services					
Carrswood Site Alterations	0	-1	1	1	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
CIL - Social (Inc Recreation & Leisure)	50	50	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
Community Resource Centre Capital Investment	41	0	41	41	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Community Resource Centre Equipment Replacement	25	20	6	6	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Disabled Facilities Grant	2,110	1,933	177	177	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Leisure - Commercialisation of Parks	30	12	18	18	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Leisure - Council Client / Contingency	26	0	26	0	Scheme complete, project savings released
Leisure Facility Modernisation - Keynsham Sports Centre	157	92	65	65	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Odd Down Sports Ground and Other Leisure Feasibility	56	69	-13	-13	Multi year scheme; recovery from 2024/25
Public Tennis Improvements	38	38	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
Subtotal Full Approval - Adult Services	2,533	2,214	319	293	
Children's Services					
Basic Needs - School Improvement / Expansion	1,144	287	858	858	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Schools Capital Maintenance Schemes	1,016	284	732	732	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Schools Devolved Capital	279	126	153	153	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
SEND (Special Education Needs & Disability) Capital Programme	1,288	416	872	872	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Southside Youth Centre	-12	0	-12	-12	Overspend for recovery in 2024/25
Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) - Residential Provision at Bath College	225	35	190	190	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Subtotal Full Approval - Children's Services	3,940	1,148	2,793	2,793	

Capital Scheme	Final Budget at Outturn	Outturn 23/24	Variance (Budget vs Outturn)	Re-phase Request	Comments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Neighbourhood Services					
Air Quality Management Area and AQ Monitors	4	0	4	0	Scheme complete, project savings released
Alice Park - Skate Park	9	0	9	9	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Bath Christmas Market	10	10	0	0	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Beechen Cliff Woodland & Other Small Projects	2	2	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
CCTV Camera Replacement	605	219	386	386	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
CIL – Library Hublets	13	0	13	13	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Emergency Response Equipment	12	6	6	6	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Haycombe Crematorium	3	3	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
Improvements at Victoria Park, Bath	44	43	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
Keynsham Memorial Park	60	49	11	11	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Neighbourhood Services Vehicles	2,538	2,290	248	248	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Parks Equipment Replacement Programme	-1	-2	1	0	Scheme complete, project savings released
Parks S106 Projects	244	247	-4	-4	Rolling programme, recovery from 2024/25
Pixash Site Redevelopment	21,202	20,649	553	553	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Play Area Refurbishment / Equipment	453	247	205	205	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Property Improvement – Bath Library	7	9	-2	-2	Multi year scheme; recovery from 2024/25
Sydney Gardens (Round 2)	2	2	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
Tree Planting	74	67	7	7	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Waste Depot Relocation	170	46	124	124	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Waste Infrastructure Modernisation	446	103	342	342	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Waste Container Replacements	26	26	0	0	Scheme complete, no rephasing required
Waste Welfare Facilities	20	5	16	16	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Subtotal Full Approval - Neighbourhood Services	25,942	24,022	1,921	1,915	
Highways					
ANPR Enforcement Camera Replacement	110	107	3	3	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
City Centre Security - Highways Scheme	3,511	2,616	895	895	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Clean Air Zone	1,572	674	898	898	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Cleveland Bridge Refurbishment	374	266	107	107	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
CRSTS Liveable Neighbourhoods	1,541	704	838	838	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
CRSTS Manvers Street Remediation	446	282	164	164	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Highways Maintenance Block	8,568	8,381	187	187	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) Bid -GULW	27	67	-40	-40	Multi year scheme; recovery from 2024/25
Parking Body Worn Video Cameras for Civil Enforcement Officers	35	0	35	35	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Pay & Display Machines - New Coin Acceptance	530	400	130	130	Multi year scheme; re-phasing to 2024/25
Local Highways Improvement	1,652	1,385	267	267	Rolling programme, delivery continues into 2024/25
Subtotal Full Approval - Highways	18,366	14,883	3,483	3,483	
TOTAL CAPITAL SCHEME BUDGET	82,206	63,502	18,704	17,398	

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Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING:	23rd July 2024
TITLE:	Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring, Cash Limits and Virements – April 2024 to June 2024
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Appendix 1 - Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring, Cash Limits and Virements – April 2024 to June 2024 Cabinet Report</p> <p>Annex 1: Revenue Dashboard</p> <p>Annex 2: Capital Dashboard</p>	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The report was considered by the Cabinet at their 11th July 2024 meeting. It presents the April 2024 to June 2024 revenue and capital budget monitoring for 2024/25.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to;

2.1 Note and discuss the Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report.

3 THE REPORT

3.1 The Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring report and supporting main detailed appendices are included as the appendices to this report and for Panel consideration.

3.2 The summarised Council budget monitoring position is as follows, full details are included in the main report (Appendix 1):

The net revenue forecast position for 2024/25 is £3.95m over budget.

Main pressures at portfolio level arose in:

- Children Services £2.47m (Children Social Care demand pressures)
- Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development £1.54m (Corporate Estate running costs for surplus assets and loss of income from unlet buildings, and

similarly the Regeneration service has rental income below target and unmet savings targets)

- Neighbourhood Services £1.10m (High staffing costs and the dual running of waste depots)

Main favourable areas at portfolio level:

- Highways £0.62m (Parking income has exceeded budget)
- Resources £0.52m (mainly due to additional investment income from higher interest rates and reduced Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP – capital borrowing principal repayment)

In light of the forecast over budget position, Directors are actively developing mitigation plans for the service areas identified above to manage this position in year and bring the Council back into a balanced position. An update will be provided in the Quarter 2 monitoring report.

Capital spend is forecast to be £11.8m (15%) below the current approved budget of £76.6m, mainly reflecting reprofiled spend into future years. A significant part of the variance is related to the revised profile of forecast future loan drawdowns by the Council's housing company with £8.9m moving to 2025/26 and future years.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The annual medium-term financial planning process allocates resources across services with alignment of these resources towards the Council's corporate priorities. This report monitors how the Council is performing against the financial targets set in February 2024 through the Budget setting process.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 These are contained throughout the attached report and appendices.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The substance of this report is part of the Council's risk management process. The key risks in the Council's budget are assessed annually by each Director, with these risks re-assessed regularly as part of the budget monitoring process.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 7.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget process aligns resources towards the corporate priorities and objectives set out in the Corporate Strategy, which includes tackling the climate emergency. This report monitors the Council's financial performance against those budgets, and therefore does not include any decisions that have a direct impact on Climate Change.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation on the Cabinet Report was carried out with the Cabinet Member for Resources, Directors, Section 151 Finance Officer, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	<i>Gary Adams – Head of Financial Management</i> Gary_Adams@bathnes.gov.uk Andy Rothery, Executive Director of Resources (S151 Officer) Andy_Rothery@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	2024/25 Revenue and Capital Budget Setting reports
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	11th July 2024	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3544
TITLE:	Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring, Cash Limits and Virements – April 2024 to June 2024	
WARD:	All	

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report:

Appendix 1 – Revenue Monitoring Commentary

Appendix 2 – Key Scheme Capital Monitoring Commentary

Appendix 3 (i) & 3 (ii) – Proposed Revenue Virements & Revised Revenue Cash Limits

Appendix 4 (i) & 4 (ii) – Capital Virements & Capital Programme by Portfolio

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

a) Revenue budget

The Revenue budget outturn is currently forecast to be £3.95m over budget.

Demand-led placement and package costs continue to cause a significant pressure in Children's Services. The service is currently forecasting a £2.47m overspend.

Pressures in the Corporate Estate service linked to the holding costs of vacant buildings (£0.96m) and the costs of maintaining the estate, alongside staffing pressures with Waste and Fleet Services (£0.96m), are further adding to the adverse forecast financial position.

High levels of visitor numbers to Bath city centre have resulted in a strong start to the year for Parking services income (£0.62m), while higher interest rates and an expected reduction in minimum revenue provision (borrowing debt charge) have resulted in favourable forecast capital financing and interest variances (£0.55m), which partially mitigate the aforementioned pressures.

In addition, there is an in-year SEND placement pressure of £11.8m on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). A revised Safety Valve Agreement has been submitted to the DFE recently due to the Local Authority (LA) not being able to achieve the original targets set out in the plan.

Savings of £16.2m were included in the 2024/25 budget. At present £13.6m savings are forecast as delivered, with the remainder either being mitigated through alternative measures, or included as unachievable in the service forecasts. Savings delivery will be monitored closely through the year and management action plans identified when delivery is at risk.

In light of the forecast over budget position, Directors are actively developing mitigation plans for the service areas identified above to manage this position in year and bring the Council back into a balanced position. An update will be provided in the Quarter 2 monitoring report.

b) Capital budget

The current position of the 2023/24 Capital Programme is a forecast of £64.8m against a budget of £76.6m. The variance of £11.8m reflects anticipated rephasing of schemes into future years.

c) Council Tax and Business Rates

The forecast cost of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme based on the first quarter is £0.3m below budget at £10.6m.

The government announced, as part of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement in November 2023, that the retail, hospitality, and leisure business rate relief scheme would be extended for a fifth year in 2024/25 retaining its existing scope which provides for 75% business rates relief, capped at £110,000 per business for eligible properties. As at the end of June, relief of £7.4m had been granted under this scheme. The loss of income continues to be compensated by government grant.

Empty property relief following business closures is £4.8m at the end of the first quarter of the year. This is in line with allowance for empty property relief included when setting the business rate income forecast for 2024/25.

d) Council Reserves

The Council holds general unearmarked reserves of £12.6m, this is held corporately to manage in year financial pressures that cannot be mitigated within existing budget levels.

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report presents the financial monitoring information for the Authority as a whole for the financial year 2024/25, using information available as at the end of June 2024.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked:

- 2.1 To note the 2024/25 revenue budget position (as at the end of June 2024).
- 2.2 To note the revenue virements listed for information only in Appendix 3(i).
- 2.3 To note the capital year-end forecast detailed in paragraph 3.22 of this report;
- 2.4 To note the changes in the capital programme including capital schemes that have been agreed for full approval under delegation listed in Appendix 4(i).

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Budget Management Scheme requires that the Cabinet consider the revenue and capital monitoring position four times per year.

REVENUE BUDGET

- 3.2 Service Directors have been asked to outline the actual expected outturn for the year and the reasons to date for over / under budget forecasts. For revenue budgets which are forecast to be over budget, the Directors are expected to seek compensating savings to try and bring budgets back to balance.
- 3.3 A summary by Portfolio of the revenue position as at the end of the first quarter is shown in the table below:

Portfolio	Revised Budget £'m	Year End Forecast £'m	Variance Over / (Under) £'m
Leader of Council	(0.30)	(0.31)	(0.01)
Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1.27	1.22	(0.05)
Council Priorities and Delivery	2.88	2.85	(0.03)
Resources	15.83	15.31	(0.52)
Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development	(6.84)	(5.30)	1.54
Adult Services	60.82	60.83	0.01
Children's Services	35.95	38.42	2.47
Highways	(1.77)	(2.39)	(0.62)
Neighbourhood Services	25.87	26.97	1.10
Built Environment and Sustainable Development	2.51	2.57	0.06
Quarter 1 Forecast Outturn Variance	136.22	140.18	3.95

Note 1: Some of the figures in this table are affected by rounding.

- 3.4 The current **year-end** forecast is a £3.95m over budget position.
- 3.5 In light of the forecast over budget position, Directors are actively developing mitigation plans for the service areas identified above to manage this position in year and bring the Council back into a balanced position. An update will be provided in the Quarter 2 monitoring report.

Portfolio Commentary

- 3.6 Key variances and associated actions by Portfolio are as follows, a more detailed breakdown can be found in Appendix 1:

Leader of the Council (£0.01m under budget)

There are no material forecast variances to report in this portfolio.

Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel (£0.05m under budget)

Recovery of staff costs from projects in the Environmental Monitoring team is causing a small favourable financial position for the portfolio.

Council Priorities and Delivery (£0.03m under budget)

Some minor staffing underspends in Human Resources and Corporate Office are the reasons for the favourable forecast variance.

Resources (£0.52m under budget)

Higher than budgeted interest rates have led to a £0.25m favourable forecast on investment income from cash balances, while the estimated Minimum Revenue Provision (the required charge for the repayment of debt) is currently forecast to be less than anticipated at budget setting by £0.3m. Vacancies in Procurement to the value of £0.1m also add to the favourable forecast position. These under budget estimates are partially offset by unmet savings targets in Legal services of £0.1m and a forecast £0.1m overspend in Housing Benefit Subsidy due to temporary accommodation being provided at higher cost than the claimable subsidy.

Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development (£1.54m over budget)

The Corporate Estate is forecasting an adverse budget position of £0.96m resulting from high running costs of surplus properties and loss of income from un-let buildings, which in turn means an ongoing savings target to reduce maintenance costs across the estate is not being met. Similarly rental income under the budgeted value and unmet savings targets in Regeneration have resulted in a £0.56m adverse forecast for the service area.

Adult Services inc Leisure (£0.01m over budget)

The current forecast position for Adult Social Care at this stage of the year, is a balanced position. There are underlying variances which, after the application of funding from the Social Care Grant, Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund (MSIF) and improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) totalling £1.6m, will be covered by a transfer from the Adult Social Care Reserve (£1m). The forecast use of reserves is to cover adverse variances in the Learning Disability and Autism Pooled Service (£2.6m) and Older People & Physical Disabilities (£0.5m), which are partially offset by underspends within other areas Mental Health (£0.4m) and the Community

Resource Centres within provider services (£0.3m). This adverse variance reflects the impact of both the increase in the number of packages in 2023/24 (activity and cost) and the known demand in year. Work continues to review this activity.

The increased level of cost demand seen in 2023/24 is continuing into 2024/25 and commissioners are working with providers on this to determine future requirements and the planning to meet them.

An established interim pathway is in place and is an agreed arrangement continuing from previous years. The numbers currently in this arrangement have been managed down from the high levels in 2023/24 and this lower activity trend is expected to continue. This pathway continues to support the reduced activity need for long term care.

Leisure Services are currently forecasting an overspend of £0.01m, this is due to the level of fee income being received being below the expected value.

Children's Services (£2.47m over budget)

The main cause of this over budget position is the continuing pressures from 2023/24 across the demand-led placement and package budgets (£2.6m continued pressure from 2023/24 into 2024/25).

Demand-led placement pressures are due to a mix of increased demand, especially around Residential, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) and increased packages of care and support costs needed, due to the increased needs our Children and Young People continue to present with. There are also continued increased costs because of the complex packages of care needed for those with the highest need in the Disabled Children's Team (DCT). In total these areas are £2.11m over budget. The biggest area of pressure is Residential (£2.36m over budget), this has been driven by an increase in numbers of placements because of the need to safeguard young people suffering criminal exploitation, in addition to an increased trend of young people suffering from emotional dysregulation and mental health, in conjunction with upward cost pressures on placements from providers. The other principal areas of pressure are UASC support (£0.54m over budget), spend on packages of care to support those not in care to remain so (£0.38m over budget) and DCT (£0.08m over budget). The complex needs funding stream underspend (Joint Agency Panel - JAP) offsets some of the DCT overspend, as young people who are no longer funded from JAP are funded now from DCT instead (JAP £0.94m under budget). There are also under budget positions for Independent Foster Care (IFA) (£0.11m under budget) and In House Foster Care (£0.22m under budget). The reduction of spend on IFAs is due to reduced numbers of young people in this type of placement.

These pressures are net of £0.60m in-year mitigations identified and in train, plus assume the full delivery of the £1.26m budgeted savings across the Children's Portfolio.

To address the over budget position in the demand-led budget areas cost reduction strategies have been assessed and summarised into a business case which aims to reduce significantly the cost pressures by the end of 2026/27. This is currently being reviewed by the Executive Leadership Team.

In Education there is an over budget position of £0.16m, which is mainly because of Teachers Pension costs rising, which is an ongoing pressure from 2023/24.

Home to School Transport (HTST) has a pressure of £0.1m. This is due to ongoing pressure from market forces creating cost pressures when procuring HTST, including reduced availability of drivers, cost inflation and reduced tendering activity for many routes. The end-to-end process for HTST is being reviewed to ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of our statutory responsibility in a challenging marketplace.

Schools DSG (£11.784m over budget, carried forward overspend of £22.263m from 2023/24)

Although the Quarter 1 forecast for Dedicated School Grant (DSG) shows a balanced position, there is an underlying over budget position for 2024/25 of £11.784m forecast (this is the gross in-year deficit position before any additional contributions from the Department for Education (DFE)). Additionally, the deficit carried into this year on the balance sheet was £22.263m. The overspend of the DSG in-year last year was £8.810m. This historical deficit and in-year overspend are being address via the Safety Value Agreement in conjunction with the DFE, which was originally agreed in March 2023. A revised Safety Valve Agreement has been submitted to the DFE recently due to the Local Authority (LA) not being able to achieve the original targets set out in the plan. When this revised plan is agreed (pending the election) it will reinstate the Safety Valve payments amounting to £1.65m per annum.

In line with Government guidance any overspend of the DSG is carried forward for recovery against future DSG funding. Therefore, the LA cannot fund the £22.263m pressure from its own General Fund revenue budget (unless permission is given by the Secretary of State to disregard the requirement to fund from the DSG). The £22.263m overspend carried forward into 2024/25 is held in a specific unusable reserve for recovery against future DSG funding. This treatment is in line with recently announced Government guidance stating that DSG in-year and cumulative deficits should no longer be held as a negative earmarked reserve and should instead be held in an unusable reserve called the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account. This accounting treatment has the effect of separating DSG budget deficits from the LA's General Fund and, following the recently announced extension, covers the period to 31st March 2026.

Highways (£0.62m under budget)

Parking income has exceeded budget during the first two months of the financial year. Forecasting this forwards for the remainder of the year generates a favourable budget position of £0.62m for the portfolio.

Neighbourhood Services (£1.10m over budget)

High staffing costs and the dual running of waste depots is creating a £0.96m financial pressure in Waste and Fleet Services.

Built Environment and Sustainable Development (£0.06m over budget)

Market conditions are having an adverse impact on the forecast Building Control income, which is partially offset by staffing underspends across the portfolio.

REVENUE BALANCES, CONTINGENCY AND RESERVES

- 3.7 The current Employer's national pay offer for 2024/25 is estimated at between 4-5% on average, which is within the 5% included in the budget. Negotiations on the pay award continue and as such this remains an estimate at this stage and further updates will be provided in future monitoring reports. Service budgets will be adjusted once the final pay award is agreed.
- 3.8 The current forecast revenue position includes planned and approved use of earmarked reserves as set out in the table below.

Key Reserves

- 3.9 The following table shows the balances of key reserves at the beginning of the year, planned use, and expected balance at the year-end based on current forecast:

	Balance as at 01/04/2024 £'m	Projected Use / Commitments £'m	Estimated Balance 31/03/2025 £'m
Revenue Budget Contingency	3.35	(0.46)	2.88
Financial Planning and Smoothing Reserve	6.34	(1.57)	4.77
Transformation Investment Reserve	1.40	(1.40)	0.00
Covid Contingency Reserve (Govt grant)	1.00	(1.00)	0.00
Restructuring & Severance Reserve	4.88	(3.00)	1.88

Reserves and Flexible Capital Receipts

- 3.10 Flexible Capital Receipts are being utilised for revenue spend that results in ongoing revenue savings. A five-year estimated use of £11.5m was agreed as part of budget setting in February 2024, this has now been updated to reflect the re-profiled requirement and re-phasing into 2024/25 as follows:

	Actual Usage 2017/18 to 2022/23 £'m	Actual Usage 2023/24 £'m	Available Balance £'m	Est Total Usage £'m
Flexible Capital Receipts	8.25	1.48	1.77	11.50

- 3.11 Unapplied capital receipts of £2.672m were carried forward from 2023/24, with no receipts in 2024/25 received so far and £5.9m budgeted for.

General Fund Un-Earmarked Reserve

3.12 The General Fund Un-Earmarked Reserve is retained to meet the Council's key financial risks. The risk assessment has set a range of between £12.3m and £13.6m to meet those risks in the 2024/25 financial year. The reserve has a current uncommitted balance of £12.6m in line with the level reported in the 2024/25 Budget Report.

SAVINGS PERFORMANCE

3.13 The 2024/25 revenue budget approved savings of £16.42m, all of which are recurrent base budget savings. Delivery of these savings will be monitored throughout the year, with £13.61m forecast as achieved at the end of June, representing 83% delivery. Of the £2.81m not currently achieved, £2.30m are being mitigated through savings, contingency or income elsewhere in the respective service, while £0.51m of savings are delayed, resulting in unavoidable pressures. Note that £2m of the mitigated savings shortfall relates to the Being Our Best Programme, of which budgeted savings contingency has been earmarked to cover the reprofiling of this saving in line with revised delivery timetable.

3.14 The Council's financial position, along with its financial management arrangements and controls, are fundamental in continuing to plan and provide services in a managed way, particularly in light of the medium-term financial challenge. Close monitoring of the financial situation provides information on new risks and pressures in service areas, and appropriate management actions are then identified and agreed to manage and mitigate those risks.

Revenue Budget Virements

3.15 Any revenue budget virements which require Cabinet approval are listed in Appendix 3(i). Technical budget adjustments are also shown in Appendix 3(i) for information purposes, as required by the Budget Management Scheme.

COUNCIL TAX, COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT AND BUSINESS RATES

3.16 The 2024/25 tax base allowed for the same number of recipients as at the end of November 2023 to continue into 2024/25 and incorporated the scheme changes to the rules of entitlement for households who receive Universal credit as agreed at the November 2023 Council meeting. The budget estimate of costs of LCTS were set at £10.86m. The cost at Quarter 1 is £0.27m under budget at £10.59m with 6,400 working age claimants and 3,332 Pensioner claimants.

3.17 The actual outturn position on LCTSS and the impact on the Council Tax collection fund will depend on a number of variables, including the change in number of claimants and the period claimants remain eligible for support whilst seeking employment and this will continue to be monitored closely during the year.

Business Rates

- 3.18 The government announced, as part of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement in November 2023, that the retail, hospitality, and leisure business rate relief scheme would be extended for a fifth year in 2024/25 retaining its existing scope which provides for 75% business rates relief, capped at £110,000 per business for eligible properties.
- 3.19 The Council will be recompensed for the reduction in business rate income arising from this relief via a s31 compensation grant. As at the end of June, retail relief of £7.4m had been granted, which is £0.4m above the £7m originally estimated for 2024/25.
- 3.20 Empty property relief was £4.8m at the end of the first quarter which is in line with the allowance included when setting the business rate income forecast for 2024/25. The forecast overall impact on the business rates collection fund position will be reviewed during the second quarter and the position in relation to reliefs will be closely monitored.
- 3.21 As set out in the Budget Report, any surplus or deficit on the Business Rate Collection Fund and associated income will be transferred to or from the Business Rates Reserve for consideration as part of the Business Rates calculations for future years and this position will be reflected in the 2025/26 budget. The balance on the Business Rate Reserve as at 1st April 2024 was £10.1m which equates to around 14% of the annual rates income (excluding retail, hospitality and leisure relief).

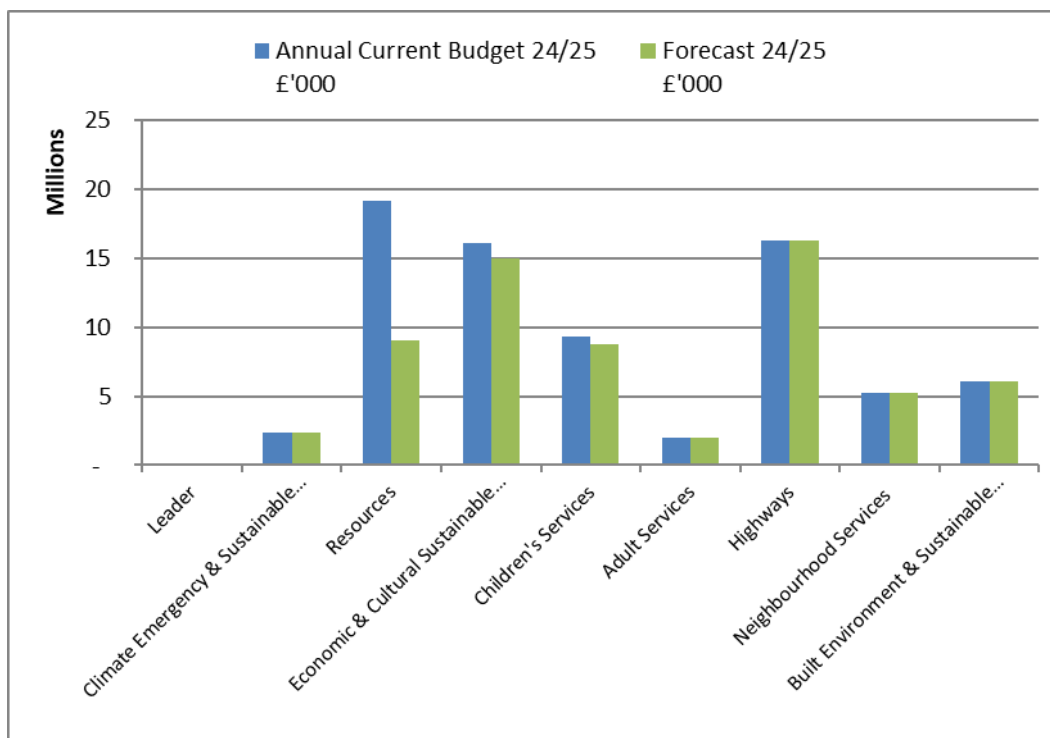
CAPITAL BUDGET

- 3.22 The current position of the 2024/25 Capital Programme is a forecast of £64.8m against a budget of £76.6m, giving a variance of £11.8m which is forecast to be re-phased to future years. A significant part of the variance is related to the revised profile of forecast future loan drawdowns by the Council's housing company with £8.9m moving to 2025/26 and future years. The following table shows a summary of the current position by Cabinet Portfolio. The full breakdown of the Capital Programme by Portfolio can be found in Appendix 4(ii) with key scheme commentary in Appendix 2. Appendix 4(i) sets out budget changes actioned since the February Budget setting. Appendix 4(ii) also illustrates the rephasing from 2023/24 reported for approval in the Revenue & Capital Outturn 2023/24 report, which is also on this meeting's agenda.

Portfolio Summary Monitor	Annual Current Budget 2024/25	Forecast 2024/25	In-Year Variance 2024/25	Forecast Re-phasing to 2025/26
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Leader	-	-	-	-
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	2,393	2,393	-	-
Resources	19,177	9,024	10,153	10,153
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development	16,107	15,007	1,100	1,100
Children's Services	9,287	8,797	490	490
Adult Services	1,985	1,985	-	-
Highways	16,326	16,326	-	-
Neighbourhood Services	5,249	5,200	49	49
Built Environment & Sustainable Development	6,097	6,097	-	-
Grand Total	76,622	64,830	11,792	11,792

Note2: Some of the figures in this table are affected by rounding

The graph below illustrates the value and forecast against budget for all in year capital budgets by Cabinet Portfolio:



Capital Commentary

3.23 The majority of projects are reporting to budget at this early stage of the year. The key in-year variance on the programme are as follows:

- **Resources** - £8.9m variance for Property Company Investment based on the current forecast Aequus loan requirements for 2024/25, with some schemes expected to progress from 2025/26 onwards, resulting in later draw-down of

loans from the Council. There is also rephasing of £1.3m forecast on the Commercial Estate refurbishment programme.

- **Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development** – Bath Western Riverside - £1.1m budget rephasing to reflect revised timing of capital receipt which has moved into future years.
- **Children’s Services** – The Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Provision at Bath College project is forecasting a rephasing requirement of £0.5m based on the latest programme delivery estimates.

RISKS

3.24 The key risks to the budget were outlined in the Councils 2024/25 Budget Report, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance. These have been reviewed and are listed below, along with any additional emerging risks:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Update
Operational budget pressures due to rising demand	Likely	High	There is the risk of unplanned and unbudgeted growth in demand on Council services as a result of the cost of living crises.
Ongoing impacts on the Councils Commercial Estate over and above anticipated levels.	Possible	High	Current modelling has been prudent following the Covid pandemic and impact on retail economy. There are risks in the retail & hospitality sector from a challenging labour market that is impacting recruitment to these sectors, so this may have an impact on business viability and income from Council tenants.
Contract inflationary pressure	Likely	High	With increase in wage, energy and fuel costs, Council contracted services are at risk of above budget price increases. This is an economic risk that has been recognised in the budget with a corporate inflation contingency for known areas that cannot be mitigated through activity management. Capital Schemes may need to be paused due to unfunded viability gaps due to increased supply chain costs.
Impact on Reserves	Possible	High	Without additional government grant in recognition of unfunded inflationary and demand pressures there is the risk that Council reserve levels are not enough to manage in-year and future years risk.
Interest rates increase	Possible	Medium	A reserve is available for borrowing to manage market risk and long-term borrowing costs have been factored into the longer-term MTFS. Expectations for cuts in the base rate have been moved back to the September to December quarter. The latest forecast from our treasury management advisors is that longer term borrowing rates will remain volatile within a relatively narrow range with movements linked to the

			likelihood of base rate reductions in the US, the UK and the Eurozone.
Volatility and uncertainty around business rates	Likely	High	The impacts of the current economic challenges will increase the volatility and uncertainty around business rate income. In 2024/25 this risk has been partly offset by the extension of the business rate relief scheme for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality businesses. We continue to monitor arrears, CVAs, and liquidations with a specific reserve held to manage in-year volatility.
Capital projects not delivered resulting in revenue reversion costs or liabilities from underwriting agreements	Possible	High	The Council has a number of projects within this category. These risks will continue to be monitored and reported. An assessment is made as part of the budget process to ensure that revenue reserves are sufficient to meet these risks. The capital programme methodology looks to de-risk projects wherever possible.
Changes to Government Policy that affects future funding	Likely	High	Need to monitor and continue to highlight impact
Funding pressures through WECA, ICB and other partners	Possible	Medium	Ensure good communication links with partner organisations.
Capital receipts in the areas identified are insufficient to meet target	Possible	Medium	There is a risk that a depressed market will impact on current values, in the short to medium term the Council should not rely on capital receipts as a key funding source.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The annual medium-term financial planning process allocates resources across services with alignment of these resources towards the Council's corporate priorities. This report monitors how the Council is performing against the financial targets set in February 2024 through the Budget setting process.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The substance of this report is part of the Council's risk management process. The key risks in the Council's budget are assessed annually by each Director, with these risks re-assessed regularly as part of the budget monitoring process.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget process aligns resources towards the corporate priorities and objectives set out in the Corporate Strategy, which includes tackling the climate emergency. This report monitors the Council's financial performance against those budgets, and therefore does not include any decisions that have a direct impact on Climate Change.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Resources, Directors, Section 151 Finance Officer, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer.

9.2 Consultation was carried out at meetings and via e-mail.

Contact person	<p><i>Gary Adams – Head of Financial Management</i> Gary_Adams@bathnes.gov.uk</p> <p><i>Paul Webb – Finance Manager, Budget Reporting</i> Paul_Webb@bathnes.gov.uk</p>
Background papers	N/A
<p>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</p>	

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Portfolio Number and Description	Cashlimit Number and Description	Current Budget £000	Quarter 1 Published Forecast £000	2024/25 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis	Outturn Recovery Plan		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Leader of Council								
P04	Leader of Council	1112	Housing Delivery Vehicle	(1,000)	(1,000)	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P04	Leader of Council	1119	Emergency Planning	698	694	(4)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P04	Leader of Council	1136	External Affairs & Partnerships	0	0	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P04	Leader of Council			(302)	(306)	(4)		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel								
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1127	Environmental Monitoring (Air Pollution)	202	163	(39)	Favourable staffing variance due to vacancies and recovery of staff time charged to projects	Not applicable
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1135	Transport Planning, Policy and Sustainable Transport	449	449	0	Significant spend has been incurred with consultants due to the lack of B&NES staff resource to develop statutory transport policies to support the Local Plan. Recruiting to this post will reduce the reliance on consultants to complete this statutory work. Overspends will be further offset by charging against project costs where possible.	Mitigation of costs by recharging to relevant capital projects and supervision fees where appropriate.
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1137	Green Transformation	614	609	(4)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel Total			1,265	1,222	(44)		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Council Priorities and Delivery								
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery	1047	Human Resources & Organisational Development	284	265	(19)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery	1132	Business Change	760	760	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery	1143	Corporate Office	1,841	1,824	(17)	Small underspend resulting from staffing vacancies.	Not applicable
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery Total			2,885	2,848	(37)		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Resources								
P19	Resources	1032	Information Technology	6,971	6,971	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1040	Finance	2,334	2,334	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1041	Revenues & Benefits	2,064	2,095	31	Staffing pressures are the key reason for the adverse forecast variance.	Staffing costs will be closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P19	Resources	1042	Risk & Assurance Services	1,481	1,481	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1053	Council Solicitor & Democratic Services	2,805	2,912	107	A legacy savings target remains undelivered.	Whilst the savings target will not be achieved, vacancy management and discretionary spend will be monitored closely to assess mitigation opportunities.
P19	Resources	1054	Hsg / Council Tax Benefits Subsidy	405	506	101	On-going budget pressure due to temporary accommodation being provided at a cost higher than the claimable subsidy.	Continued investment into our own temporary accommodation provision will reduce reliance on more expensive alternatives such as B&Bs.
P19	Resources	1055	Capital Financing / Interest	4,906	4,356	(550)	Income from investment interest is currently forecast to be £250k greater than budgeted levels. This is mainly due to the Bank of England continuing to maintain the higher Base Rate for longer than was anticipated at the time the budget was set, resulting in the achievement of higher rates of return on investments.	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1056	Unfunded Pensions	1,388	1,388	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1057	Corporate Budgets including Capital, Audit and Bank Charges	(441)	(538)	(97)	Unbudgeted grant income relating to business rates received in-year.	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1058	Magistrates	12	12	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1059	Coroners	550	550	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1060	Environment Agency	262	262	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1061	West of England Combined Authority Levy	5,194	5,194	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1081	Commercial Estate	(12,436)	(12,436)	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1118	Procurement & Commissioning	330	227	(103)	Staffing vacancies across the service.	Not applicable
P19	Resources Total			15,826	15,314	(511)		

Appendix 1 - Revenue Monitoring Commentary Quarter 1 2024/25

Portfolio Number and Description	Cashlimit Number and Description	Current Budget £000	Quarter 1 Published Forecast £000	2024/25 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis	Outturn Recovery Plan
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development						
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1018 Heritage Services	(12,242)	(12,242)	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1037 Property Services	614	587	(27)	Small underspend resulting from staffing vacancies	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1038 Corporate Estate Including R&M	4,502	5,459	958	On-going "strategic hold" of surplus and un-occupied buildings mean estate running costs remain high, resulting in the target to reduce corporate estate operating costs of £500k through rationalising and reducing assets not being achieved. Cleaning and security services costs also contribute to the adverse financial position. The overspend has been partially mitigated by staff vacancies and prioritising urgent reactive maintenance only.	Strategic hold decisions are proceeding to disposal with an anticipated reduction in the adverse position from capital receipts generated and reductions in associated holding costs.
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1039 Traded Services	0	0	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1052 Regeneration	(678)	(115)	563	Rental income shortfall and undelivered savings target is creating an adverse variance for the service.	The pressure on the adverse variance is expected to reduce following recent letting activity, once incentives have played through. Remaining accommodation is actively being marketed and may further improve the adverse position.
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1109 World Heritage	122	118	(4)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1121 Events and Active Lifestyles	380	428	47	Events staffing pressures are the key reason for the adverse forecast variance.	The Events team are working hard to achieve additional income. Limited scope to find savings within the service. Expenditure being closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1126 Visit Bath	76	76	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1128 Business & Skills	388	384	(5)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development Total		(6,837)	(5,305)	1,533		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Adult Services						
P20 Adult Services	1019 Leisure	289	300	10	Forecast income from current Leisure contract falls short of budget.	Contract changes are being explored (in light of recent VAT advice) that will increase fee income.
P20 Adult Services	1036 Adults Substance Misuse (DAT)	70	70	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1073 Adults & Older People-Mental Health Commissioning	9,739	9,406	(334)	Difficulties in recruitment & retention is anticipated to generate a one-off saving in excess of £200k. Good fee income recovery action is generating over £100k in savings.	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1086 Adult Care Commissioning	1,066	1,054	(12)	One-off underspends resulting from staff vacancies	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1088 Older People & Physically Disabled Purchasing	12,758	13,336	578	Demand for social care services has risen - in May 2024 the number of social care funded packages of care is higher than at any point in 2023. Cost of living pressures have also resulted in providers taking a more robust approach on pricing.	All placements and packages of care are now being reviewed at Social Care Practice Forum, to ensure they represent best outcomes, before funding is approved.
P20 Adult Services	1091 Learning Disabilities Commissioning	16,468	16,468	0	Demand for care along with complexity of needs and costs of living price rises are all creating pressures on the LD and autism budgets. Partner contribution to Pool still being worked through £3.6M	Discussions ongoing with ICB over funding of the complex care packages. All placements and packages of care are now being reviewed at Social Care Practice Forum, to ensure they represent best outcomes, before funding is approved.
P20 Adult Services	1093 Physical Disability, Hearing & Vision	3,661	3,673	12	Complexity of care and cost of living pressures (interim pathway) have created budget pressures.	All placements and packages of care are now being reviewed at Social Care Practice Forum, to ensure they represent best outcomes, before funding is approved. A number of existing cases are going through Court of Protection to resolve the appropriate package of support.
P20 Adult Services	1094 Public Health	0	0	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1110 Better Care Fund	(2,090)	(2,090)	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1113 CCG B&NES CHC and FNC Payments	0	0	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1114 Community Equipment	254	254	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1123 Safeguarding Adults	2,368	2,405	37	Staffing pressures are the key reason for the adverse forecast variance.	Staffing costs will be closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P20 Adult Services	1124 Community Resource Centres & Extra Care Income	8,953	8,671	(282)	Robust management controls on backfilling vacancies and use of agency staff, along with strong fee income has resulting in a service delivery forecast below budget.	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1141 Social Care	7,281	7,281	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services Total		60,817	60,828	10		

Appendix P - Revenue Monitoring Commentary Quarter 1 2024/25

Portfolio Number and Description		Cashlimit Number and Description		Current Budget £000	Quarter 1 Published Forecast £000	2024/25 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis	Outturn Recovery Plan
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Children's Services								
P21	Children's Services	1076	Children, Young People & Families	18,860	21,042	2,182	£2.1m pressure across all demand led budget areas. This pressure occurs as follows: Residential Care £2.4m, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children Care (UASC) £0.5m, spend to support those not in care £0.4m, Disabled Children Care (DCC) £0.1m. These overspends are offset by under budget positions from other areas such as Independent Foster Care (£0.1m), and reduced spend versus our contingent budget for costs of the Joint Agency Pool (JAP) (£0.9m). It should be noted that the reduced spend in JAP has a strong correlation with increased spend in DCC, as this is where support and care for our most complex children will be funded from, if not in JAP. There is also £0.1m staffing pressures as a result of the need to cover vacancies with more expensive agency workers. These pressures are net of £0.6m in-year mitigations, and include the delivery of £0.96m budgeted transformation savings across the demand led budget areas. £2.6m demand led budget pressures continued from 23/24, due to ongoing increased demand and complexity of supporting our children and young people.	Detailed monitoring of UASC numbers and costs. Continued monitoring and scrutiny of high risk areas, predominantly demand led budgets, savings targets and agency spend. £0.6m in-year recovery forecast in addition to £0.96m base budgeted transformation savings. A Business Case containing the cost reduction strategies to be implemented over a 3 year time period has been completed and will be reviewed by ELT on 21st June 24.
P21	Children's Services	1077	Inclusion & Prevention	2,383	2,383	(0)	Forecast assumes delivery of £0.15m budgeted savings.	Not applicable
P21	Children's Services	1078	Education Transformation	4,311	4,469	157	£0.11m pressure from Teachers Pensions continuing from 23/24. Balance of pressure relates to staffing, where agency usage is needed to cover vacancies and respond to demand.	Staffing costs will continue to be closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P21	Children's Services	1079	Schools Budgets	(1,434)	(1,434)	0	Although the Quarter 1 forecast for Dedicated School Grant (DSG) shows a balanced position, the deficit carried into this year on the balance sheet was £22.263m The overspend of the DSG last year was £8.8m.	The deficit is being address via the Safety Value project in conjunction with the Department for Education (DFE). A new Safety Valve agreement has been submitted to the DFE which when agreed (pending the election) will reinstate the Safety Valve payments amounting to £1.65m per annum.
P21	Children's Services	1116	Integrated Commissioning - CYP	2,431	2,466	35	The forecast pressure has arisen from increased contract costs to ensure statutory services are provided. Budgeted savings of £0.35m are forecast to be achieved.	Continued scrutiny of all departmental and contract costs.
P21	Children's Services	1117	Safeguarding - CYP	90	90	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P21	Children's Services	1142	Home to School Transport	9,311	9,407	96	Based on available April data the service are forecasting a financial pressure resulting from the volume of home to school transport required to fulfill statutory duties this financial year.	Home to school transport processes are being reviewed end to end to ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of our statutory responsibility in a challenging market place
P21	Children's Services Total			35,953	38,423	2,470		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Highways								
P34	Highways	1103	Transport & Parking Services - Parking	(8,846)	(9,465)	(619)	Favourable forecast on parking income, with a strong start to the year across most off street locations	Not applicable
P34	Highways	1129	Clean Air Zone	0	0	0	Income levels continue to show indications of anticipated downturn due to improvements in vehicle compliance as expected with the scheme, however still just exceeding budget levels due to continuing higher levels of penalty charge income and debt recovery.	As the scheme moves into the final stage of the original project timeline without a confirmed replacement scheme, the levels of income will continue to fall, removing any surplus and increasing the call on the reserve. Service resources overall will reduce to match the workload.
P34	Highways	1133	Network & Traffic Management	680	680	0	Pressures on IT costs and signals maintenance. Offset by vacancy management and increased income	Not applicable
P34	Highways	1134	Highway Maintenance	6,867	6,867	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P34	Highways	1144	Park and Ride	(473)	(473)	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P34	Highways Total			(1,771)	(2,390)	(619)		

Portfolio Number and Description	Cashlimit Number and Description	Current Budget £000	Quarter 1 Published Forecast £000	2024/25 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis	Outturn Recovery Plan		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Neighbourhood Services								
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1089	Community Safety	190	187	(3)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1101	Neighbourhoods & Environment - Waste & Fleet Services	19,896	20,851	955	The forecast overspend comprises two components; pressures on staffing budgets totalling £855k; and increased running costs from retaining Ashmead and Locksbrook depots totalling £98k	Staffing costs will be closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1102	Neighbourhoods & Environment - Parks & Bereavement Services	1,949	2,000	51	Parks & Bereavement are seeing staffing pressures across the service.	Staffing costs will be closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1115	Registrars Service	(103)	(86)	17	A small forecast pressure on budgeted income levels.	Continued promotion of service offer to generate additional income
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1122	Customer Services (Including Libraries)	2,723	2,771	48	A £100k savings target to reduce costs of customer services across the organisation through digitalisation is forecast as partially achieved at this stage in the year.	Initiatives are underway to assess the potential for digitalisation and process redesign across the organisation which will drive out further savings opportunities.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1139	Public Protection	1,220	1,251	31	Staffing pressures in the Dog Warden function is the main reason for the adverse forecast variance.	Limited scope to find savings within the service to offset income shortfall. Expenditure being closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P05	Neighbourhood Services Total			25,875	26,974	1,099		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Built Environment and Sustainable Development								
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development	1029	Housing	1,316	1,304	(12)	Small underspend resulting from staffing vacancies	Not applicable
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development	1106	Development Management	1,317	1,308	(9)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development	1138	Building Control	(119)	(44)	75	Pressures on Building Control income due to current market conditions, slightly reduced due to staff savings.	Limited scope to find savings within the service to offset income shortfall. Expenditure being closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development Total			2,514	2,568	54		
Council Total				136,225	140,176	3,951		

FINANCE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTERLY DASHBOARD - April to May 2024

CAPITAL APPENDIX 2 - KEY SCHEME VARIANCE ANALYSIS

		24/25 Current Budget £'000	24/25 Forecast £000	24/25 Variance - Approved Budget vs Forecast £'000	Re-phasing to Future Years £'000
Neighbourhood Services					
Parks S106 Projects	Key S106 Projects: 1) Sullis Meadow on hold pending resource availability. 2) Foxhill, Mulberry Park, open space and allotments options are being prepared 3) Various Keynsham projects improving access, signage and pathways: - Manor Road Woodland, handover from contractors expected August: Abbots Wood, a topological survey to be completed June/July. Teviot Road, on hold pending resource availability. (c/f recovery £4k)	777	777	-	
Pixash Site Redevelopment	The Pixash site is open with some final works to complete including permanent base for SEND Passenger Transport and Biodiversity Net Gain(BNG) projects to create and improve local natural habitats. The remaining budget for the site will need to be reviewed as final accounts are finalised. (c/f pending £553K)	2,300	2,300	-	
Waste Infrastructure Modernisation	Public engagement on proposals commenced in May in readiness to progress plans for the new RRC (Reuse & Recycling Centre) for Bath through to planning and other permissions until mid 2024. Forecast slippage anticipated as bring site recycling proposals to be delivered alongside RRC in 2025 (c/f pending £342k).	287	238	49	49
Resources					
Commercial Estate Refurbishment Programme	A programme of works to repair, and improvements where necessary, to prepare vacated commercial properties for letting to new tenants and for landlord repairs. It is under regular review and focus on seventeen key priority empty properties. Five of the priority projects are complete, two are in delivery, one is out to tender, four are currently being scoped to go out to tender and four have been submitted for planning permission. We are currently forecasting an underspend to carry forward to 2025/26 due to difficulties to fully recruit to the project management team, if we manage to imminently resolve the issues we will revisit the forecast activity for the year. (c/f pending £306k)	5,292	4,000	1,292	1,292
Property Company Investment - Council (Loan): Developments	The Aequus' loan requirement for 2024/25 is estimated at £2m, mostly being loans repayable from rents on homes which also received Local Authority Housing Fund grants (noting a progress update below in Build Environment and Sustainable Development). This figure may be revised as further business cases are approved and all remaining budget will be rolled forward into future years in line with investment plans. (c/f pending £310K)	10,552	1,690	8,862	8,862
Orange Grove	This programme is to address and prevent progressive structural decay of the Grade 2 Listed Building in Orange Grove, Bath in a prominent site next to Bath Abbey. The parade of shops with accommodation above requires works to replace non-breathable paints adversely affecting the structure, and numbers 1-2 of the building, which is currently empty, requires significant structural work and total refurbishment. (Carry forward pending 108K)	884	884	-	

FINANCE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTERLY DASHBOARD - April to May 2024

CAPITAL APPENDIX 2 - KEY SCHEME VARIANCE ANALYSIS

		24/25 Current Budget £'000	24/25 Forecast £000	24/25 Variance - Approved Budget vs Forecast £'000	Re-phasing to Future Years £'000
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development					
Bath Quays North	Bath Quays North is Bath's main regeneration project for delivery of a new innovation and technology employment quarter for the city. On 8th May 2024 the Council's Planning Committee approved reserved matters (details of access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) for Plots 1-5 of the Bath Quays North site. Due to the current economic conditions and delay to planning permission we are revisiting the profiling the scheme. (c/f pending £816K)	1,000	1,000	-	
BWR Phase 2	Midland Road site: A business case for the housing delivery is currently being reviewed to consider how to maximise affordable housing which will need some updates to the planning permission. We are also exploring options to access grant funding for the next stage of the project. Bath Riverside: An Outline Planning Application has been submitted and we are reviewing the LPA comments and design proposals. We have submitted a grant funding request to support site wide land remediation and infrastructure works with Homes England and expect a decision soon. A land swap is forecast for July/August. (C/f pending of £1,002K)	3,257	2,157	1,100	1,100
Corporate Estate Planned Maintenance	Capital planned maintenance works where priority is to continue compliance with statutory obligations. Projects for 2024/25 include roof repairs to the Guildhall Market, repairs to Keynsham Children's Centre, works to duck ponds at Victoria Park and further upgrades to LED office lighting which will result in lower energy costs. (c/f recovery pending of £620K)	5,477	5,477	-	
Somer Valley Enterprise Zone - Infrastructure	An enhanced Business Case requesting further grant funding for the next phase of delivery has been submitted to WECA for decision. A Local Development Order was approved by Cabinet in January 2024. (c/f pending 348K)	-	-	-	
Midsomer Norton High Street Renewal Programme	Construction works to create a 1000m2 new Market Square in Midsomer Norton started on site in April 2024 and is due to complete in Jan 2025. The Market Square has been designed for flexibility and once finished will be able to accommodate up to 21 full size market stalls. (C/f recovery of £143K pending)	1,015	1,015	-	
Bath City Centre Renewal Programme	The programme is progressing well, which is demonstrated through completion of many of the milestones. This programme contributes to funding for the scheme to transform Broad Street Place community garden which is due to be completed by quarter 2 of 2024/25. (c/f pending 784K)	307	307	-	
Milsom Quarter Masterplan Delivery	The Milsom Quarter proposals include projects to create new public space in front of St Michael's church, a creative workspace development at Broad Street Yards and progress is being made with developing a new Fashion Museum at the Old Post Office. Initial feasibility work on the Fashion Museum, Public Realm and Broad Street Yards has commenced using revenue grants, with project delivery funded through the capital programme in future. Spend has also commenced for Walcot Gateway on site survey works. (c/f pending of £154K)	697	697	-	

FINANCE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTERLY DASHBOARD - April to May 2024

CAPITAL APPENDIX 2 - KEY SCHEME VARIANCE ANALYSIS

		24/25 Current Budget £'000	24/25 Forecast £000	24/25 Variance - Approved Budget vs Forecast £'000	Re-phasing to Future Years £'000
Radstock Regeneration	The acquisition of Trinity Church by Radstock Town Council took place on 31st May 2024 and £250k grant is being paid to the Town Council towards the purchase. Further funding can now proceed for improvements to Trinity Church to create a community hub and event space. (c/f pending £146K)	425	425	-	
High Street Recovery	To redevelop two long-term vacant units in Keynsham Temple Street/Riverside, to bring these Council owned units back into productive use and to support empty units in the area. Project planning has already started. (c/f recovery of £32k)	1,261	1,261	-	
Children's Services					
Basic Needs - School Improvement / Expansion	Scheme Highlights are ; St Keyna Primary expansion by one form entry to a 420 place school, with new 6 classroom block built to Passivhaus standard, kitchen extension and some remodelling of existing accommodation. The contractor appointed and started on site end of May 2024 with target to complete in Summer 2025 ; Oldfield School, a contribution for the Academy Trust to deliver a new design and technology block. Planning permission approved and scheduled completion Winter 2024. (c/f pending £858k)	3,549	3,549	-	
Schools Capital Maintenance Schemes	Schools Condition Grant is received for maintained schools that we as a LA are responsible for. A project budgets for Emergency Works and Minor Works is held to address small and urgent condition issues. Newbridge re-wiring and replacement LED lighting is underway with completion this summer. The 2024 Programme of R&M works recently approved and being programmed for delivery; Newbridge Primary :- Removal of music block to re-provide with external learning space £52K, replacement windows and concrete surrounds repairs £85K, roof covering repairs £10K, external doors replacement £20K; Twerton Infant :- LED lighting upgrade £250K, roof covering replacements including strengthening to allow PVs £375K. St Keyna Primary :- LED lighting upgrade £160K (c/f pending £732k)	500	500	-	
SEND (Special Education Needs & Disability) Capital Programme	Fully approved projects to provide resource bases and SEND adaptations at schools and colleges to include: Completed Schemes at Hayesfield School, Bath College, MSN Primary. Ralph Allen School - additional £247k has recently been approved for this project (total £2.154m) to reflect increased tender prices. On target to complete by January 2026 if planning consent approved within timescales Peasedown St John Primary - on target to complete for September 2024. St Gregory's School - funding recently fully approved for project delivery to proceed Culverhay SEND & Alternative Provision, the Department for Education (DfE) have now announced funding for the two new schools and Cabinet 6/6/24 confirmed availability of site. Council to fund all additions and abnormalities, including demolition, £200K approval for Project Team to advance proposals. Feasibility studies at Writhlington School commenced (c/f pending of £872k)	2,938	2,938	-	
Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) - Residential Provision at Bath College	Full project funding approved by Single Member Decision. The project will be delivered by Bath College. The college have requested that the project is put on hold until the appointment of a permanent new Principal. This has impacted the progress, with carry forward into 2025/26 now expected for delivery of all intended outcomes. (c/f pending £190K)	2,300	1,810	490	490

FINANCE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTERLY DASHBOARD - April to May 2024

CAPITAL APPENDIX 2 - KEY SCHEME VARIANCE ANALYSIS

		24/25 Current Budget £'000	24/25 Forecast £000	24/25 Variance - Approved Budget vs Forecast £'000	Re-phasing to Future Years £'000
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel					
Bath River Line	There is some slippage to the programme due to the number and complexity of interventions and the majority of capital delivery is planned for 2024/25. We are moving forward with the wayfinding and interpretation strategy, Green Park masterplan and integration of the Pollinator Fund planting project. The Bath River Line aims to create a linear park following the River Avon from Batheaston to Newbridge. This first approved phase is the western section from Newbridge to Bath Quays. (c/f pending of £63K)	1,485	1,485	-	
Highways					
City Centre Security - Highways Scheme	Works at Upper Borough Walls works are now completed with sliding bollards, block paving and sleeved static bollards installed. The successful delivery of project to date has ensured we continue to forecast within budget and have commenced works in Lower Borough Walls to complete later in 2024. (c/f pending £894K)	1,553	1,553	-	
Clean Air Zone	CAZ Queen Square Public Realm projects are now underway with resurfacing works complete, footway improvement works now in the delivery phase and nearing completion. Commissioning to be undertaken for feasibility for green spaces improvements. The Government department the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) have notionally agreed that underspends should re-directed for use with exit plan proposals. (c/f pending £898K)	107	107	-	
Highways Maintenance Block	Good progress on all schemes and on target for full delivery in 2024/25. Programmes of Carriageway Resurfacing and Machine Laid Patching are underway along with Street Column replacement and Drainage Improvements. Road Marking Refresh and Crack Sealing programmes are completed. North Parade bridge deck waterproofing & repairs commenced on	9,508	9,508	-	
CRSTS Liveable Neighbourhoods	<p>This programme is made up of two themes; the first is a series of 7 residential parking zones, which were delivered in 2023. The second theme is for 15 Liveable Neighbourhoods, which will include a range of traffic-related measures introduced across B&NES. Three trials, focussing on through-traffic restrictions to reduce the dominance of vehicles in communities and promote active travel, were launched in 2022 in Church Street, Widcombe, Southlands, Weston and Queen Charlton Lane, Queen Charlton. Following feedback and analysis, all of these trials have now been made permanent.</p> <p>A further 3 Liveable Neighbourhood areas, featuring 5 shortlisted measures, have been identified as suitable for trialling from Spring 2024. These areas are Lower Lansdown and The Circus, New Sydney Place and Sydney Road and the Lyme Road and Charmouth Road area. The scheme in New Sydney Place was launched from 1 April and the Lower Lansdown schemes will launch in early August. Budget approvals to drawdown £736k of CRSTS grant from WECA to fund these interventions, have been secured.</p> <p>A full business case identifying proposed interventions for the 15 Liveable Neighbourhoods will be submitted to WECA in the summer of 2024, in order to access the remaining CRSTS funding for delivery. A decision on the FBC and commencement of delivery is expected during the latter half of 2024/25. (c/f pending £837k)</p>	1,234	1,234	-	

FINANCE BUDGET MONITORING QUARTERLY DASHBOARD - April to May 2024

CAPITAL APPENDIX 2 - KEY SCHEME VARIANCE ANALYSIS

		24/25 Current Budget £'000	24/25 Forecast £000	24/25 Variance - Approved Budget vs Forecast £'000	Re-phasing to Future Years £'000
CRSTS Manvers Street Remediation	CRSTS Capital budget held for a Manvers Street and Pierrepoint Street Refurbishment to investigate the cause of deterioration of the road surface, and propose and implement a cost effective, future-proof solution to protect the integrity of the highway. Following the Options Assessment Report further surveys are now being commissioned to gather information required for design work and robust tender documentation. (c/f pending 164K)	216	216	-	
Local Highways Improvement	The majority of schemes in the programme are progressing with no issues identified and will be delivered in 2024/25 . The following 2023/24 schemes require additional funding from the 2024/25 allocations and are expected to be finalised over the summer. Bathampton Safety Scheme, Parkhouse/St Clements Close link, footpath improvements Keynsham, Widcombe Hill speed measures, Fosseyway South MSN Toucan Gateway and Speed Limit, A368 route review and Bloomfield Road Pedestrian and Cycling safety review.	3,298	3,298	-	
Built Environment & Sustainable Development					
Affordable Housing	The budget for 2024/25 is half the £195k approved towards the provision of larger sized rented affordable housing in Radstock to support evidenced needs of the local community. (c/f recovery of £69K)	97	97	-	
Supported Housing Scheme	Refurbishment of Crescent Garden Lodge, Theobald House and Westgate Street is complete with remaining budget carried forward for final costs. We are continuing to develop a pipeline of future projects with some flats in central Bath at early stages of work. (c/f pending £103K)	-	-	-	
Social Rent Programme	A planning application was approved in May 2024 for ten affordable, energy efficient, apartments in Dane's Lane, Keynsham to be delivered with Aequus. We are also continuing to develop the site at the former Argyle Works. (c/f pending £104K)	3,446	3,446	-	

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Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING:	23 July 2024
TITLE:	Corporate Strategy end-of-year review 2023/24
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Appendix 1: Report to Cabinet, 6 June 2024</p> <p>Appendix 2: Corporate Strategy End of Year Review</p> <p>Appendix 3: B&NES Activity Report 2023-24</p> <p>Appendix 4: Extract from minutes of cabinet meeting, 6 June 2024</p>	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 A report providing an update on progress delivering the Corporate Strategy 2023-27 and Annual Performance Report 2023-24 was presented to cabinet on 6 June 2024. This report invites the Panel to consider this report and the cabinet's response and actions arising from it.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to;

- 2.1 Note and discuss the report and associated documents

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 . The report sets out Bath & North East Somerset Council's progress on delivering its Corporate Strategy commitments to residents in 2023-24. The Corporate Strategy 2023-27 was adopted unanimously at Council at its meeting in July 2023.
- 3.2 The papers for and minutes of the cabinet report are presented as appendices to this report for the panel's consideration.
- 3.3 The report highlights the scope of the council's work and the far-reaching impact the council has on improving people's lives, including:

- A seventh place ranking out of 388 councils on climate action. Measures to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies included being the first in the country to adopt an energy-based net zero policy for new housing developments.
- Our Park & Ride schemes placed second in the country for customer satisfaction
- The local economy boosted by £47m - by more than 450,000 visitors to the 2023 Bath Christmas Market
- More than a million visitors to the Roman Baths over the past year, contributing to the vibrancy of the local economy.

3.4 A key priority in the Corporate Strategy is to support vulnerable adults and children. In 2023/24 the council supported:

- more than 1,800 people in adult social care settings
- more than 200 looked-after children
- 2,230 children on Education, Health & Care Plans
- 141 children on Child Protection Plans

3.5 The Community Wellbeing Hub also opened an outreach base at Bath's Royal United Hospital to provide extra support for people being discharged, receiving 1,803 referrals in 2022/23.

3.6 To help deliver the council's priority of the right homes in the right places, fifty affordable homes have been made available for residents. More than 400 Ukrainian guests have been welcomed under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

3.7 To further embed the delivery of the Corporate Strategy across the council a [report](#) was presented to cabinet on July 11th recommending revisions to the Council's Strategic Performance indicators to demonstrate better alignment to the Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 and provide a basis for assessing performance against the delivery of that strategy.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The report and the Corporate Strategy reflect a wide range of council statutory frameworks.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 These are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations will be undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 Tackling the climate and ecological emergency is a core policy of the council's Corporate Strategy, as reflected in the report to cabinet.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Deputy Council Leader (non-statutory) and Cabinet Member for Council Priorities & Delivery have been consulted on the drafting of this report as well as the Chief Executive, Executive Director for Resources and Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	Andy Rothery, Executive Director - Resources (S151 Officer) (01225 477103)
Background papers	Corporate Strategy 2023-27
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	6th June 2024	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E3532
TITLE:	Update on progress on delivering the Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 and Annual Performance Report 2023-2024	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Annex 1 Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 - End of Year Review Annex 2 Council Activity 2023-2024 Report		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report updates Cabinet on the progress made in delivering our Corporate Strategy 2023-27 and our performance in 2023-24.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the progress in delivering the Corporate Strategy and the highlights of Council performance and activity during 2023-24.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Full Council adopted a new four-year Corporate Strategy at its meeting in July 2023. The document set a new direction for the Council, reflecting the aims of the administration elected in May 2023, and providing a clear approach to the Council's activities and priorities.

- 3.2 The Corporate Strategy is the Council's overarching strategic plan. It sets out what we plan to do, how we plan to do it, and how we will measure performance over the next four years. The Corporate Strategy framework is set out below:

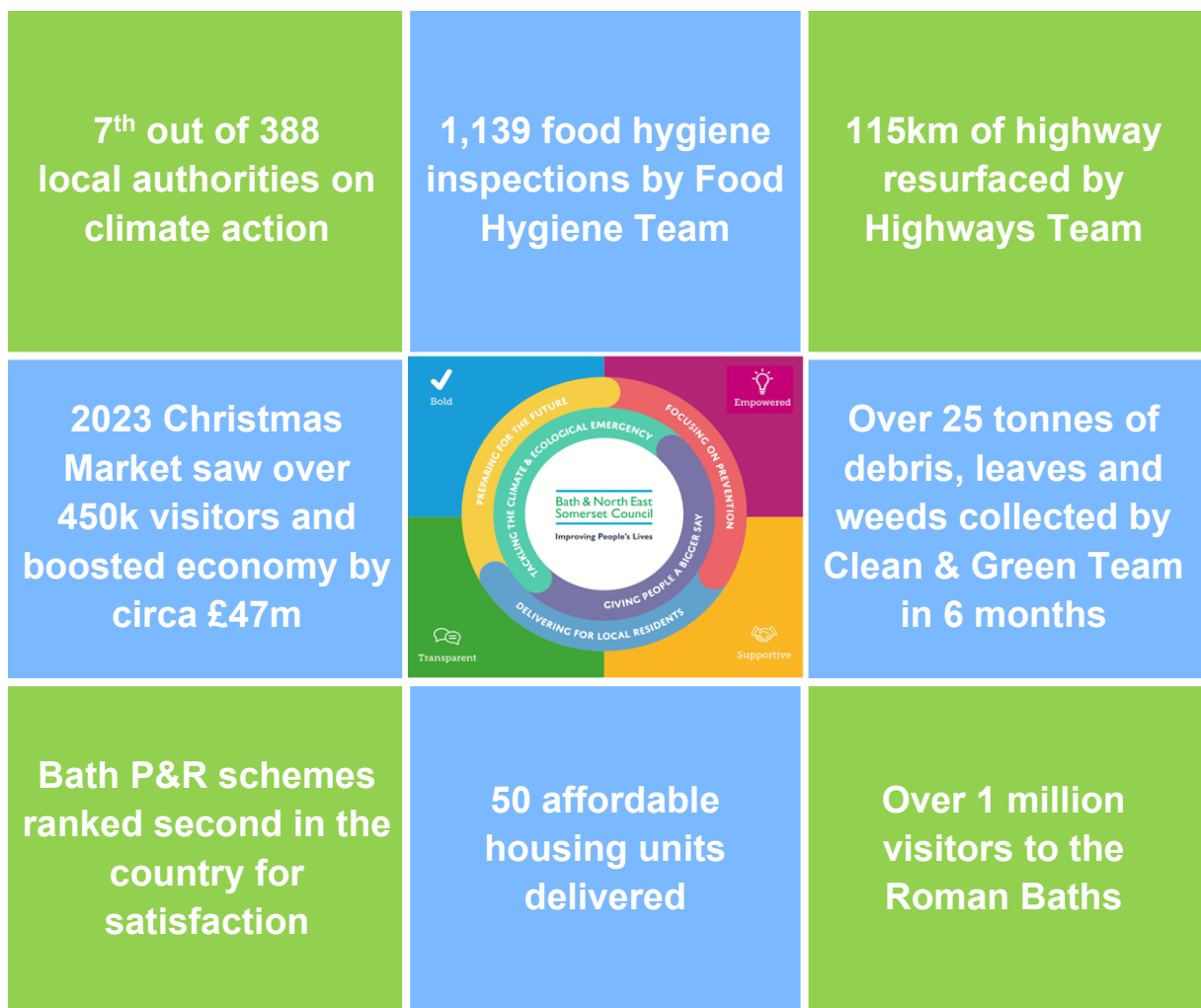
- 1) We have one overriding purpose - **to improve people's lives**. This brings together everything we do, from cleaning the streets to caring for our older

people. It is the foundation for our strategy, and we will ensure that it drives our commitments, spending, and service delivery.

- 2) We have two core policies - **tackling the climate and ecological emergency** and **giving people a bigger say**. These will shape our work.
- 3) To translate our purpose into commitments, we have identified three principles. We want to **prepare for the future, deliver for residents** and **focus on prevention**. These, in turn, help us to identify specific delivery commitments across our services.

This report brings together the work undertaken to deliver the Corporate Strategy in 2023/24, as well as the key elements of Council performance during this period.

3.3 Despite the continuing challenges of recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and tough financial pressures, which are being felt by the Council, our communities, local businesses and partner organisations, good progress was made in delivering the Corporate Strategy last year. A snapshot of performance in 2023/24 is set out below with a more detailed summary in Annex 1:



3.4 Key achievements in 2023/24 include:

- Opening of the new Pixash Waste recycling facility in Keynsham.
- Being shortlisted by the Local Government Chronical Awards as most Improved Council.
- Developing and implementing a new strategy and service provision of Adult Social Care services to the residents of Bath and North East Somerset.
- Agreed an ambitious new Economic Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset, prioritising green growth, good jobs and affordable housing
- Delivery of the Council's Being Our Best programme to enable a joined up organisational structure that meets the objectives of providing the Council with Great Jobs, Smarter Structures and a Culture of Excellence

3.5 In addition the Council has also continued to deliver services to its residents, Annex 2 includes an activity analysis showing the diverse range of services the Council provides, including:

- Supported over 1800 Adult social care users in care homes and the community
- Supported over 200 Looked after Children.
- Processed and decided on over 1800 planning applications.
- Collected and processed 370Kg per household of residual waste
- Repaired over 7700 potholes
- Processed over 4200 housing benefits claims.

3.6 A set of Strategic Performance Indicators is highlighted in section 2.3 of Annex 1. This set of indicators provides an overview of the Council's performance for many of its key services, such as Adult and Children Social Care, Waste Services and Green Transformation. A new set of Strategic Indicators is being developed for 2024/25 to give a better balance of performance across the key services.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The Council has a wide range of powers which allow it to deliver the Corporate Strategy adopted in July 2023. It should be noted however that the government has introduced an extensive range of new legislation, regulations and guidance during the last 3 years, which may influence how certain aspects of the Strategy are delivered.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The Council’s financial planning and budget setting process is the key resource mechanism for delivering the Corporate Strategy. Council agreed the resourcing requirements for the 2023/24 at its Budget meeting in February 2023.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Any relates relating to the issues identified in this report will be captured as part of the Council risk management approach and strategy and will be recorded on the corporate or directorate risk registers. An assessment of those risks identified will take place along with any mitigating actions.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 7.1 The Climate Emergency Annual Report was presented to Council in March 2022 on our progress in tackling the climate and ecological emergency. The current report provides an opportunity to re-emphasise how these commitments are reflected as “core policies” in delivering the Corporate Strategy. A new Annual report will be presented to Cabinet in July 2024
- 7.2 Monitoring the effectiveness of delivering on Climate Change is one of the key components of the strategic report. More Indicators are being developed to allow further monitoring against the Council’s target.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 This report has been cleared by the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

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Background papers	Corporate Strategy 2023 - 2027
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Corporate Strategy - End of Year Review 2023/24

This document looks at the Council's progress against the 2023-2027 Corporate Strategy, focusing on the successes and achievements during the first year in delivering the Council's core policies and principles to improve people's lives.

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Executive Summary

2023/24 is the first year of the Council's new Corporate Strategy. This review sets out how we have improved peoples' lives through the delivery of the commitments set out in our Corporate Strategy.

The Council has spent the last two years building the conditions for and driving an effective and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for our local economy, and latterly managing the challenges around the cost of living crisis.

And through the continued delivery of the core policies and principles in the Corporate Strategy, we have made significant progress. The examples below highlight some of the notable achievements that we can build on as we continue to deliver our Corporate Strategy to 2027.



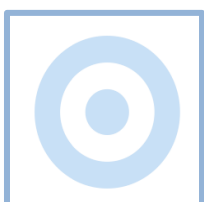
Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency

In January 2023, Bath & North East Somerset became the first Council in England to successfully adopt an energy-based net zero policy for new housing developments.



Giving People a Bigger Say

In November 2022, we launched 3 Liveable Neighbourhood trials. We are working with communities to improve residential streets and encourage safe, active and more sustainable forms of travel, such as walking, wheeling and cycling.



Delivering for Local Residents

In December 2022, the first affordable homes for social rent owned directly by the Council in nearly three decades were advertised to potential tenants. The former Council offices at 117 Newbridge Hill have been converted by our housing company Aequus Construction into seven one and two-bed affordable and energy efficient apartments.



Focusing on Prevention

In March 2023, a new 'outreach base' run by the Community Wellbeing Hub opened at the Royal United Hospital. Extra support is being provided for those being discharged from hospital. The hub received 1,803 referrals during 2022/23. In 2022, the Council's Welfare Support Team provided £2.2 million in support to residents who needed help.



Preparing for the Future

The Employment and Skills Pod offers a free service available to all residents of Bath and North East Somerset over 18 who wish to get back to work, change careers or up-skill in their current jobs.

1. Introduction and Context

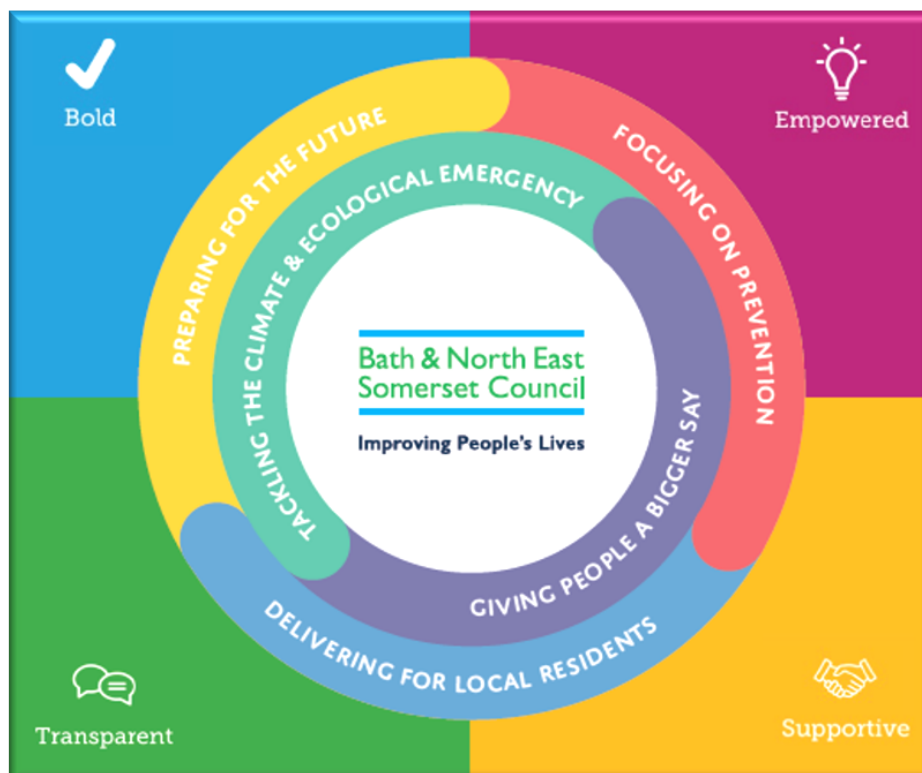
The Council exists for one purpose - to improve peoples' lives. The 2023-2027 Corporate Strategy sets out how we will continue to do this over the next 4 years.

1.1 Corporate Strategy 2023-2027

The [Corporate Strategy 2023-2027](#) is the Council's overarching strategic plan and guide to future changes. It was adopted by Full Council in July 2023, and retains the purpose, policy and principles set out in our [previous strategy](#):

- 1 **Overriding purpose - To IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES**
- 2 **Core Policies - Tackling the climate and ecological emergency, Giving people a bigger say**
- 3 **Principles - Delivering for local residents, Focusing on prevention, Preparing for the future**
- 4 **Values that underpin all our work - Bold, Empowered, Supportive, Transparent**

Collectively, these 10 elements shape everything we do:



Our Corporate Strategy to 2027 builds on our achievements, and reflects the ambitions and priorities of the Council's administration elected in May 2023. It provides a **clear and ambitious framework for delivery**, and also sets out how shared outcomes will be embedded through partnerships such as our Future Ambition Board, and Health and Wellbeing Board.

Our **Corporate Strategy Framework for Improving People's Lives 2023 to 2027** is set out below:

Core Policy



Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency

(The climate, ecological and environmental ceiling)

Our Commitment:

We will lead the UK in climate and nature action, building a sustainable future for Bath and North East Somerset - net zero, nature positive by 2030

We will deliver under the following themes:

- **Biodiversity** - increasing abundance and diversity of species by creating and improving habitats including woodlands
- **Air** - improving air quality
- **Climate** - area and Council-wide scope 1 and 2 emissions neutrality by 2030, including through increased renewable energy capacity across the district and a reduction in the carbon footprint of the area's housing stock
- **Water** - improving the quantity and quality of water resources
- **Soil** - retaining soil and improving soil health
- **Land and environmental assets** - better use of land for people and nature, including stewardship of our environmental assets - respecting, balancing, conserving and enhancing our heritage assets and their landscape settings, in particular the World Heritage Site of Bath
- **Materials and resources** - increasing circularity of materials and resources in the local economy

Core Policy



Giving People a Bigger Say

(The space for local communities and organisations to collaborate and innovate)

Our Commitment:

We will listen to and work with residents to act on their concerns

We will deliver under the following themes:

- **Equality and respect** - championing equality, diversity and inclusion, ensuring our services are shaped by our diverse communities and reflect local needs, and ensuring we meet Equality Act duties
- **Community priorities** - communicating clearly, area working to develop tailor-made solutions, building on our Parish and Community Engagement Charters
- **Decisions informed by evidence** - using feedback and data to evaluate our services, shape priorities, and tackle inequalities

Principle



Delivering for Local Residents

(The social and economic foundation)

Our Commitment:

We will continually improve frontline services across our communities, whilst protecting the most vulnerable

Priorities

The right homes in the right places - improving availability of affordable housing, accessible to local jobs and services

More travel choices - making it easier for people to walk, wheel and use public transport to reduce transport emissions

Clean, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods - working with local communities to promote civic pride and preventable approaches

Principle



Focusing on Prevention

(The social and economic foundation)

Our Commitment:

We will invest in prevention across all services to tackle inequalities and improve local areas

Priorities

Support for vulnerable adults and children - securing safe, effective services that meet the needs of our changing population

Delivering for our children and young people - working with our partners to narrow the early years attainment gap

Healthy lives and places - working with health and other partners to tackle inequalities, promote healthy places, and support people to live healthier lives

Principle



Preparing for the Future

(The social and economic foundation)

Our Commitment:

We will work towards a resilient, sustainable economy that is fair, green, creative and connected

Priorities

Good jobs - aiming to increase the median wage in a regenerative economy

Skills to thrive - an inclusive economy where prosperity is shared

Cultural life - valuing and developing its contribution to Bath and North East Somerset

1.2 Links to the Council's Financial Strategy and Priorities

Full Council agreed the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget for 2024/25 at its meeting on 20th February 2024. The budget focuses on delivery of the Corporate Strategy to ensure our commitments are realistic and achievable, with areas of strategic priority and focus over the next two years to include:

- ➔ Delivery of the Council's **Being Our Best** programme to enable a joined up organisational structure that meets the objectives of providing the Council with Great Jobs, Smarter Structures and a Culture of Excellence
- ➔ Developing a **new strategy and service provision** of Adult Social Care services to the residents of Bath and North East Somerset
- ➔ Focusing on ensuring **financial sustainability** in Children's services, recognising the increased demand and complexity of caseload - we continue to work on improving our financial and management information which are key to creating a modern and resilient service
- ➔ Delivery against an **ambitious new Economic Strategy** for Bath and North East Somerset, prioritising green growth, good jobs and affordable housing
- ➔ Managing the Council's operational assets through the introduction of a **Corporate Landlord model** that ensures the best use for the Council's services and its communities
- ➔ Continued investment to **support the most vulnerable people** in our communities
- ➔ Continued commitment to secure action to address the **climate and ecological emergency**
- ➔ Continuing to focus on **Council-wide business change programmes** that balance service improvement within a clear return on investment framework
- ➔ Delivering new ways for our residents, businesses, partner organisations, visitors and internal service teams to interact and receive Council information and services using **digital channels**
- ➔ Ensuring that we are able to manage **labour market demands and fluctuations** across our workforce but particularly in operational roles in both social care and neighbourhood services.

1.3 Community Contribution Fund

The [Community Contribution Fund](#) was launched in March 2021, initially as a pilot to offer residents the chance to contribute to good causes that help local charity, community and voluntary groups to reduce health inequalities. In numbers:

- ➔ **£45,293** donated as at 5th January 2024
- ➔ **500+** individual donations received, with most people donating between £20 and £50
- ➔ **£31,235** has been given in the form of grants to voluntary and community groups to support local projects, with the largest award to date being £2,000. 2023/24 to be allocated

All applications to the Community Contribution Fund grant schemes are agreed by a panel of Councillors. The table below summaries the donations and grants that have been made in the three years that the fund has been running.

Year of Scheme	Grants Allocated by Panel of Councillors
2021/22 Total Donated £30,019	Grants of up to £2,000 awarded to 15 community organisations working to reduce inequalities and support the most vulnerable people in our communities. Projects funded included those that supported people's mental health; provided emergency medical supplies; invested in refurbishment of community facilities; mentoring; support for families; training; group therapy and youth provision.
2022/23 Total Donated £6,075	Grants of £250 offered to community organisations from October 2022 in support of community-run Warm Spaces registered with the Council. Applicants can use these to help support their additional utility costs or help run activities. 26 applications were approved by the panel and 24 grants were awarded.
2023/24 Total Donated £9,199	Applications for grants up to £500 re-opened in December 2023 with a focus on projects that support residents with the ongoing cost of living crisis, which also includes support Warm Spaces. Applications closed on 16th February 2024 and grants have now been allocated

The scheme has been promoted through local media and on the Council's social media and website. While it attracted more donations in its first financial year, donations have continued with some individuals donating more than once. This downward trend in charitable giving by the public has been seen across the sector nationally.

Subject to further donations received, it is recommended that the scheme continues into 2024/25.

Full details of [successful applicants](#) can be found on the Council's website.

2. Council Performance

2.1 Corporate Strategy Successes

2023/24 has been a financially challenging year, both for the Council and for the residents and businesses of Bath and North East Somerset. Despite this, we have enjoyed a wide range of successes and achievements.

The tables below offer a selection of success stories that demonstrate how we are delivering the Corporate Strategy's core policies and principles, while **Appendix 1** captures key service achievements over the last 12 months against the commitments set out in our Annual Directorate Statements (see Section 2.2).

Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency

Emission-based parking charges introduced to improve air quality in

Bath - The council is replacing signage in its car parks to reflect the new vehicle emission-based parking charges in council-owned car parks in Bath. The new variable charging structure only affects motorists with more polluting vehicles - its aim is to incentivise these motorists to use more sustainable alternatives when visiting the city centre, and encourage a shift to public transport, walking, wheeling and cycling.

Get involved in improving green spaces in the Somer Valley

- A call is going out for habitat management volunteers to join Somer Valley Rediscovered, a project to increase biodiversity and connect communities to their landscapes. The volunteering sessions include activities to manage grassland and woodland areas, selective scrub removal to support diverse habitats, improvements to footpaths and activities to encourage wildlife into green spaces.

Giving People a Bigger Say

Consultation launched Bath & North East Somerset community care proposals

- Residents, families, staff and the wider community are being asked for their views on plans to reshape care for people being looked after in three Council-run community resource centres. The plans would see Cleeve Court Residential Home in Bath become a centre of excellence for dementia care including nursing care, and enable younger people with complex needs to live closer to home with an enhanced offer for them at Combe Lea, in Midsomer Norton.

Consultation opens on funding new Community Neighbourhood Projects for Bath

- A public consultation asked residents to help decide which applications for the Neighbourhood CiL for Bath should be funded to support the development of their areas. Library improvements, new play equipment, a football pitch upgrade, and new climbing facilities are among the projects that residents can choose to benefit from the latest round of community funding in Bath.

Delivering for Local Residents

Hard-working team keeps Bath & North East Somerset clean and green

- More than 25 tonnes of debris, leaves and weeds - the weight of a full waste truck - have been collected by the Council's Clean and Green team in just six months. The snapshot figure covers the team's work responding to more than 400 requests from residents, councillors, and parishes. Additional funding has been invested in programme, benefitting neighbourhoods with street cleansing, weed removal, cleaning road signs and removing graffiti.

Bespoke accessible play unit opens at Bath's Royal Victoria Park

- The unit has two generous ramps enabling children in wheelchairs to access an exciting off-ground play platform, without having to negotiate stairs or be lifted out of their wheelchairs or buggies. Earlier this year the Council added an ability swing accommodating a wheelchair next to the standard swings, helping to ensure children of all abilities can play alongside each other. The £55k improvements aim to improve accessible play in its parks.

Focusing on Prevention

Prevention is better than cure – raising food hygiene standards

- New figures reveal the Council's food hygiene team carried out 1,139 food hygiene inspections in 2022. This is more than three food business every day in their ongoing drive to raise food hygiene standards and keep residents and visitors safe. Currently across Bath & North East Somerset, 982 businesses have been awarded the top level 5 hygiene rating

Support for rough sleepers in B&NES

- Organisations are offering help to people who sleep rough or who are at risk of becoming homeless this winter and all year round. Cafes have also signed up to help rough sleepers by providing warm spaces and a hot drink during the day. The [Genesis Lifeline Centre](#) offers day time facilities, and there is a takeaway food provision available for rough sleepers at Julian House's Manvers Street Hostel.

Preparing for the Future

Highway resurfacing wraps up for another year as council completes annual programme

- More than 15km of highway has been resurfaced across Bath and North East Somerset this year as the Council completes its resurfacing programme. The Highways team also repaired 6,838 potholes – averaging 20 repairs a day. The Council completed its annual resurfacing programme on time and under budget, despite the ongoing challenges posed by rising material costs. In total the equivalent of 554 tennis courts has been resurfaced.

Work begins on new shopfronts and art installations at Keynsham's Temple Street

- The £65,000 Keynsham Shopfront Improvement Programme will see Temple Street Canteen and Savour Deli, Refill and Farm shop transformed with upgraded frontages in pastel colours in keeping with the street's Victorian character. Working with Keynsham Town Council and Keynsham Leisure Centre, the Council also hopes to bring splashes of colour and fun to the opposite side of the street with three art installations that will reflect and celebrate the history of Keynsham.

2.2 Corporate Delivery Programme 2023/24

71% of the commitments that support the Corporate Strategy have been successfully completed. This is marginally lower than last year, however it is against the backdrop of a challenging financial operating environment and illustrates once again that the Council is proactively facing into its financial challenges in a responsible and sensitive manner.

Our **Annual Directorate Statements** set out the top 100 commitments by Directorates to help achieve delivery of the **Corporate Strategy**, supported by their respective **Divisional Service Plans**. The **Corporate Delivery Programme** reports progress against these commitments, providing a direct **monitoring and reporting** link to the Council's key strategic framework.



A summary of overall performance is shown in the table below:

Core Policies and Principles	Commitments to CS in ADS	Status of Commitments at End Q4		
		Red	Amber	Green
Climate & Ecological Emergency	15	0	27%	73%
Giving People a Bigger Say	9	0	22%	78%
Delivering for Local Residents	12	0	25%	75%
Focusing on Prevention	31	0	35%	65%
Preparing for the Future	9	0	22%	78%
Total	76	0	29%	71%

The figures under the 'status of commitments' column represent the percentage of Directorate commitments that are red, amber or green for each of the **Corporate Strategy's core policies and principles** at the end of 2023/24.

2.3 Strategic Performance Indicators

The **Strategic Performance Indicators** are a set of 37 indicators that forms part of the Council's Integrated Reporting Framework and are themed to follow the core policies and principles in the Corporate Strategy. The chart below summaries the end of year position for these indicators, with the full Quarter 4 Strategic Indicator Performance Report available in **Appendix 2**.

Please note the final column refers to indicators where the end of year data is not yet available or targets have not been set so it is not possible to indicate a RAG rating. The Council relies on third parties for some of its data, and they do not always release this data within our reporting timeframes.

Core Policies and Principles	Indicator Count	Status of Indicators at End Q4			
		Green	Amber	Red	ND
Climate & Ecological Emergency	7	1	0	2	4
Giving People a Bigger Say	1	0	0	0	1
Delivering for Local Residents	5	0	3	0	2
Focusing on Prevention	19	1	1	1	16
Preparing for the Future	5	1	0	0	4
Total	37	3	4	3	27

A new set of strategic indicators is being developed for 2024/25 to provide a better balance across the key services.

Key points to note from this year's performance against the strategic indicators:

- ➔ Average estimated CO2 per residential property continues to reduce (3.5 in March 2024 vs 3.6 in December 2023). Total estimated emissions for residential properties are increasing, but this will be due in large part to the increase in properties included in the calculation, as more EPCs are issued. As the average emissions per property is reducing, the energy performance of households is improving.
- ➔ Net new homes delivered was marginally below the target (712 vs. 722) for 2023/24. The monitoring methodology for this measure excludes purpose-built student accommodation (whereas other measures, such as the housing delivery test, covering supply over a three-year period, include this category), which would have provided an additional 35 properties.

- ➔ The percentage of properties with an Energy Performance Certificate rating of A - C improved again to 32.8%, continuing the quarter-on-quarter improvements that have been seen our monitoring started in 2019.
- ➔ Households in temporary accommodation reduced to 68 (-7) at the end of March 2024 but remains above the target of 36. However, there has been a reduction in the number of people placed in Bed & Breakfast accommodation, with an increase in people accommodated within the Council's own housing stock.
- ➔ The percentage of people using Adult Social Care services with an up-to-date review has fallen slightly to 71.8% (target of 80%). However, since the social work service has come in-house, improved data quality monitoring is in place and data cleansing is being undertaken to ensure that system records reflect all activity undertaken by teams.
- ➔ The percentage of adults at home 91 days after discharge into the reablement service was below target in March, however the overall Q4 performance is 82% against the 77% target. In addition, the statutory return for Q4 reablement performance will include a new dataset from the Royal United Hospital for its ART+ service, (not available at the time of writing), which will see the published rate increase further above the target.
- ➔ The number of children looked after and children on Child Protection plans (both per 10,000 population) both reduced at the end of March 2024, with the former being the lowest rate in 18 months.
- ➔ The number of children on EHCPs continues to rise, with 2,300 on plans at the end of March 2024.
- ➔ Self-reported wellbeing for people with a high anxiety score improved to 25.9% in 2023. There was also an improvement in the percentage of mothers known to be smoking at the time of delivery, reducing from 8.1% to 7.7%.
- ➔ At 96%, the percentage of household waste reused, recycled, composted or recovered remains significantly above target (80%).

2.4 Inspections

Care Quality Commission (CQC) - There are **36 active care homes** in Bath and North East Somerset. 31 are residential care homes, three of which are managed by the Council, and five are extra care housing schemes, all managed by the Council.

The CQC has carried out inspections on six of these care homes over the last 12 months, resulting in four homes being rated as 'Good', and two as 'Requires Improvement':

Care Home	Type of Care Provided	Date of Inspection	Latest CQC Rating	Previous CQC Rating
Council Managed Care Homes - Community Resource Centres & Extra Care Housing				
Charlton House CRC	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia and Physical Disabilities	12/04/2023	Requires Improvement	Inadequate 31/10/2022
Care Homes Run by Independent Providers				
Cedar Park Nursing Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+	22/03/2023	Good	Good 16/10/2018
St Teresa's Nursing Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+ including Dementia	19/06/2023	Good	Requires Improvement 29/09/2020
Bloomfield Care Centre	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia	17/07/2023	Good	Requires Improvement 15/09/2020
Mostyn Lodge Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia and Physical Disabilities	26/10/2023	Requires Improvement	Good 03/08/2021
Culverhayes Nursing Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia and Mental Health conditions	01/11/2023	Good	Good 09/05/2023

Appendix 3 provides a summary of all the latest CQC ratings for all the care homes and extra care housing schemes in Bath and North East Somerset. As at March 2024:

83% of residential care homes (25) and extra care housing schemes (5) are **Good**
 14% of residential care homes (5) **Require Improvement**
 3% of residential care homes (1) are **Not Rated***

*Care home is newly registered and has not yet been inspected.

2.5 Resident Satisfaction

Satisfaction with Local Area

Between October and December 2023, the Council carried out its **Voicebox 32 Survey** to obtain residents' views on a range of topics to help shape the area and improve local services.

The survey was sent to a random sample of 3,961 residents with online response options. This resulting in 1,089 completed surveys, a total response rate of 28% (including an online response rate of 44%). The results show a **reduction in satisfaction levels** across a number of key areas, with potentially **reduced buy in** for the Council's core policies:

81% ↓

Percentage **satisfied with their local area** as a place to live **fell by 3%** from the previous year. It remains higher than the national rate (71%), which saw a similar reduction to B&NES. The level of satisfaction locally has been stable since 2017.

47% ↓

Percentage **satisfied with the way the Council runs things** has seen a **large reduction of 12%** and is at its lowest level for seven years. Again there has been a similar reduction nationally, although the England response rate remains higher at 56%. Despite this, satisfaction with recent customer experience is notably higher (67% compared to 47%)

47% ↓

Percentage **agreeing the Council provides value for money** has also seen a **large drop**, reducing from a third of respondents to just over a quarter. This is the lowest level since 2017, maintaining a large gap between national and local perceptions. Comparative council tax data demonstrates that's residents pay less than the regional average in Council tax per head of population.

11% ↓

Percentage **agreeing they can inform decisions made by the Council** has **nearly halved**. There is no benchmarking data available however giving people a say has been a key strategic priority for the organisation for the last four years.

34% ↓

Perceptions of **safety for children from violence outside the home** have worsened, especially at night, **increasing by over a third** since 2022. This is in the context of local news regarding serious youth violence in B&NES and neighbouring authorities. Whilst the Avon & Somerset Violence Reduction Profile notes that the age of violent offenders is getting younger. Comparative rates of violent crime in B&NES remains lower than both the national and regional figures.

6 to 15% ↓

Broad support for **renewable energy generation**, particularly domestic and commercial solar, however a **reduction in support** for all sources since 2022, particularly ground mounted solar panels and wind turbines.

41% ↓

Working from home (at least 2 days per week) has **more than halved**, dropping back from 89% in 2020, which was the result of the government directive to manage the Covid-19 pandemic, to 41% in 2023.

Actions identified:

The following actions have been identified to improve the Voicebox results going forward;

- Improved communication and marketing, to understand and listen to residents more
- Work on more measures to improve customer satisfaction
- Better Joined-up digital channels - rationalising contact channels.
- More community conversations regarding local renewable energy and activity to promote sustainable travel.

Relative Priorities

The chart below illustrates those priorities that the respondents think are **most important in making their local area a good place to live** and those that are **most in need of improving**. These priorities are similar to those recorded in 2022, with affordable decent housing showing a 7% increase.

Most important and Most need improving by Item

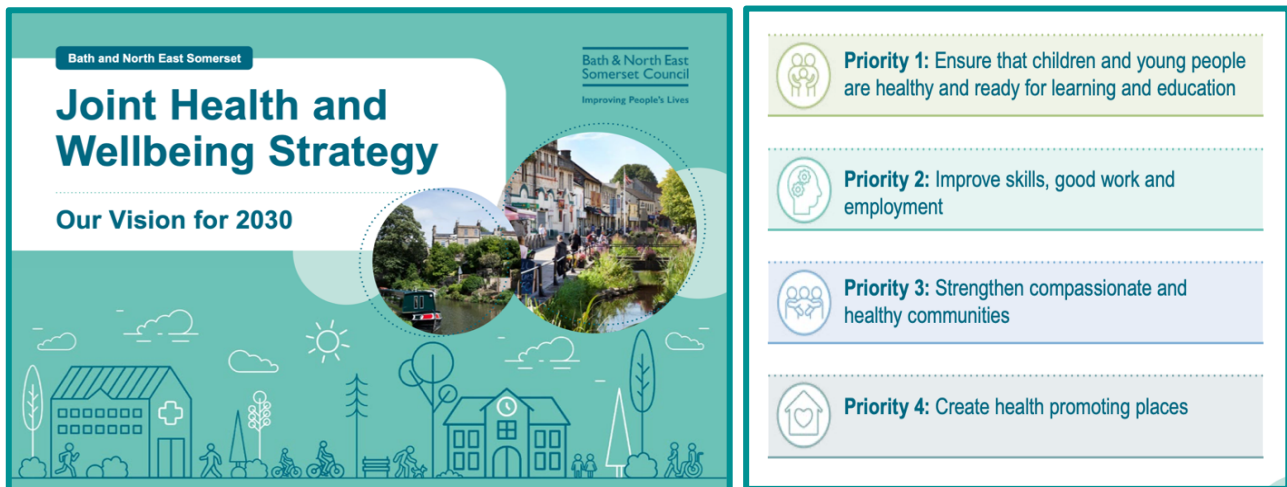


3. Health and Wellbeing

3.1 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

A new seven-year strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Bath and North East Somerset and address inequalities has been launched.

The [B&NES Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Our Vision for 2030](#) sets out four priorities that together will help people have the best start in life, live well in caring and compassionate communities, and make it easier for people to live physically and emotionally healthy lives.



It will pilot new models of healthcare like Integrated Neighbourhood teams to make it easier for residents to access the right care and support when and where they need it; focus on affordable warmth support for those people living in homes most at risk of cold and damp; and provide intensive support for disadvantaged children who are doing less well at school. These are all actions that evidence shows will help improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people living in B&NES and help establish the right foundations to reduce some of the unfair outcomes some residents experience.

Bath and North East Somerset follows the national trend of increasing numbers of children and young people receiving support for social, emotional and mental health needs - and pressures on the health care system have made it challenging for residents to access the care they need. And the difference in life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived areas of B&NES is 11 years for women and seven years for men.

Residents have played a key role in identifying the priorities through public consultation held in Autumn 2022. The priorities are also based on information from the B&NES Strategic Evidence Base, which draws from information gathered by partners from health, social care, local authority, higher and further education, public services, and community and social enterprise groups.

3.2 Community Wellbeing Hub

The [Community Wellbeing Hub](#) is a partnership set up in March 2020 with shared goals bringing together 27 public, private and third sector organisations. It was originally established to provide help and assistance during the Covid pandemic, and now offers a central point of access for a range of community health and wellbeing services, with 24 of the partners commissioned to deliver these services:

In partnership with

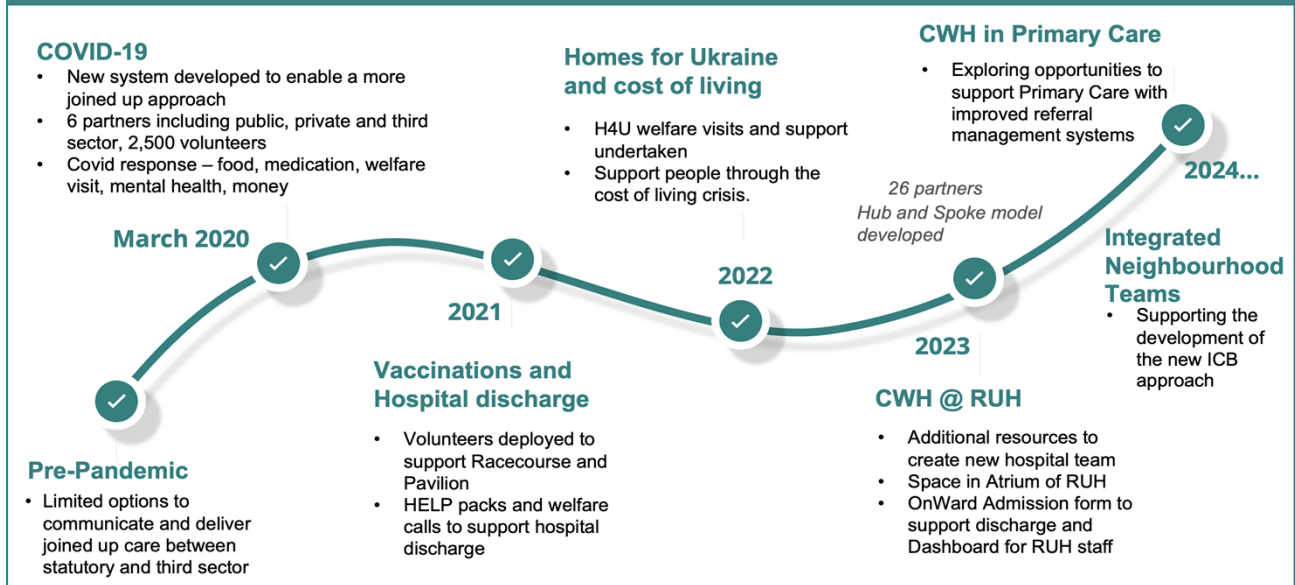


Over 60 services are available for all residents of Bath and North East Somerset including:

- Money Matters
- Keep active and healthy
- Achieve a healthy weight
- Accessing food
- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Lifestyles services e.g., stop smoking
- Social prescribing
- Housing advice
- Home from Hospital
- Employment issues and advice
- Supporting carers, family members and others
- Activities, wellbeing courses and volunteering opportunities

The diagram below illustrates how the hub has changed over the four years it has been operating and the key milestones and outcomes along the way:

The journey so far



3.3 Live Well B&NES

Live Well Bath & North East Somerset aims to help people to find timely and relevant information to support themselves at early stages of need to prevent their needs escalating. The resource can help prevent or delay the need for greater input, or offer mitigation while experiencing a wait to access a service.

Live Well B&NES is a new statutory service that was launched in 2023 for families living in Bath and North East Somerset, parent carers looking after a child (up to 25) with a special educational need and/or disability (SEND), young people with SEND, adults (and their family or carer) needing care or support to live independently, and practitioners.



Live Well B&NES (LWB) is web-based resource providing signposting, information, activities and resources for members of our communities within Bath and North East Somerset <https://livewell.bathnes.gov.uk>



It is managed, moderated, maintained and promoted by the **LWB team** and the site is hosted by B&NES Council. It is a statutory service and we regularly add new services, groups and information.



Over **37,000** people have visited the resource this year. We promote in a range of ways; social media, distribution of postcards, articles in newsletters and local press, outreach in the community and hosting events.



It is complemented by two social media channels:
www.facebook.com/livewellbathnes
[www.instagram.com/Youth Info Bathnes](https://www.instagram.com/Youth_Info_Bathnes)

3.4 Support for Refugees

Bath and North East Somerset continues to provide a safe haven to refugees and displaced communities:

UA → **GB**

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, over **400** Ukrainians have found sanctuary in B&NES under the government's Homes For Ukraine scheme

SY
AF → **GB**

To date, **108** refugees from Syria and Afghanistan have been welcomed to the B&NES area under the government's UK Resettlement Scheme and Afghan Resettlement and Assistance Programme

HK → **GB**

An estimated **370** people have recently moved to the B&NES area from Hong Kong, under Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Visa scheme

3.4.1 Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Council provided a swift and co-ordinated response to welcome Ukrainian refugees in our area, working with a wide range of services and partners, including schools, local health services, and groups such as Julian House and Bath Welcomes Refugees.

The **Homes for Ukraine (H4U)** scheme has seen a generous response from local residents who have offered their homes to support people in need, building on the success of the Council's previous work with our partners on the Syrian and Afghan refugee resettlement. So far, residents in Bath and North East Somerset have welcomed more than **400** Ukrainian guests under the government sponsorship scheme.

A Bath & North East Somerset Council survey asked how satisfied or dissatisfied host families had been with the Council's response to the H4U scheme.

- ➔ **79** hosts responded to the survey, with only three saying they were dissatisfied.
- ➔ **Over 80%** of families intend to stay in touch with their guests and have been either very satisfied or satisfied with the support they've received from the Council.
- ➔ **Over 80%** of respondents enjoyed their time hosting a family or individual despite communication and sharing space in the house as the main challenges to hosting.
- ➔ **Almost 30%** would consider hosting another refugee family or guest again in the future with almost the same number undecided if they would host again.

One host commented: *"I feel there has been a lot of support on offer for both guests and hosts. H4U clearly care about making hosting work for all involved."*

Hosts are paid a 'thank you' payment for hosting, which is between £350 and £500 per month depending upon the length of hosting.

3.4.2 Afghan Resettlement and Assistance Programme

Bath and North East Somerset continues to provide safe haven to Syrian and Afghan refugees, with latest figures showing **108** refugees from Syria and Afghanistan have been welcomed to the area under the UK Resettlement Scheme and Afghan Resettlement and Assistance Programme.

The Council is working with Aequus Developments, its wholly-owned development company, to add 22 new homes to local affordable housing stock after it secured £3.04m from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' Local Authority Housing Fund.

The money has been awarded on the condition that the properties will be used to provide homes for families fleeing conflict via the Ukrainian and Afghan resettlement and relocation schemes. Once there is no further need to house these families the homes will be permanently available for other households on the Council's housing register, thereby providing short-term accommodation for families displaced by war and a long-term legacy of more affordable housing in Bath and North East Somerset.

4. Local Economy

Cabinet have adopted a new **Economic Strategy** - [Building A Fair, Green, Creative and Connected Bath with North East Somerset](#), which will run from 2024 to 2034. This strategy has partnership at its core both with institutions within the authority area and also cross departmental working within the Council. It has been developed in close consultation with local businesses and our key anchor institutions – the University of Bath, Bath Spa University, Curo, and the Royal United Hospital, who have all endorsed the plan.

The new Economic Strategy sets out a clear vision for a more sustainable local economy, with a new strategic approach built upon six pillars of Good Work, Inclusive Innovation and Creativity, Greener Economy, Resilient Businesses, Housing Affordability, and Stronger Places. The strategy was developed from a strong evidence base and adheres to the principles of Doughnut Economics. It focuses on the best approach to the issues of greatest impact and also addresses the needs of the future.

The Council local businesses and the local anchor institutions have also been working together as part of the **Bath with North East Somerset Future Ambition Board**. This is a voluntary arrangement seeking to deliver a shared ambition for the place and to increase our influence locally and nationally. The Partnership has been working on themes developed from the One vision document published in 2021 and further developed by the Economic Strategy, and is working on appointing an independent Chair. In addition the Anchor institutions including the Council and the two Universities are launching the Civic University Agreement in May 2024.

4.1 Economic Growth

The figures below show economic growth in B&NES has not kept pace with either England or the West of England for a number of years:

Growth	Period	Growth Rate		
		B&NES	West of England	England
Economic Growth	1998 to 2021	11%	55%	50%
Number of Businesses	2010 to 2021	21%	31%	34%

The lower rate of growth in businesses is due to a number of factors including lower than average productivity, higher than average employment in the public sector, a lack of appropriate growth space for businesses and high housing costs. Our recently published [Economic Strategy](#) seeks to address a number of these issues through a variety of methods.

It should also be noted that B&NES has a higher than average rate of business survival, so the businesses created locally have more longevity than both elsewhere in the South West and the UK as a whole.

Business Growth	Period	Growth Rate		
		B&NES	West of England	England
Survival Rate	2022	50%	45%	40%

Bath's office supply increased after a number of years of limited stock. This has also led to a much-needed improvement in the quality of available space. New accommodation at Bath Quays and a number of comprehensive refurbishments in the city centre now provide a range of high quality options ([Alder King Market Monitor 2023](#)).

4.2 Economic Activity

The ONS Annual Population Survey estimates 83.9% of the working age population (aged 16 to 64) in B&NES are classed as **Economically Active** compared to 78.8% in the UK as a whole for the period October 2022 to September 2023. This is the second highest rate in the last 20 years.

For the same period, there are 19,300 **Economically Inactive** residents (i.e., students, carers, long-term sick, retirees) in B&NES, 16.1% of the working age population. Over 80% (15,300) do not want a job, although it should be noted that B&NES has a considerably higher proportion of students (35.3% compared to 26.8% in the UK), and also a higher number who are retired (18.0% vs 12.7%).

Period: October to September	Economic Activity - October 2018 to September 2023					
	B&NES		South West		UK	
	Active	Inactive	Active	Inactive	Active	Inactive
2018 - 2019	82.5% (104,400)	17.5% (21,000)	82.0%	18.0%	78.9%	21.1%
2019 - 2020	82.9% (105,200)	17.1% (20,600)	81.3%	18.7%	79.0%	21.0%
2020 - 2021	82.1% (102,000)	17.9% (21,500)	80.2%	19.8%	78.5%	21.5%
2021 - 2022	76.7% (94,300)	23.3% (27,700)	80.3%	19.7%	78.4%	21.6%
2022 - 2023	83.9% (104,800)	16.1% (19,300)	81.0%	19.0%	78.8%	21.2%

Source: [ONS Annual Population Survey](#)

4.3 Claimant Count

The amount of B&NES residents who are in receipt of benefits has remained constant over the past year, and currently stands at 1.9%, close to pre-COVID levels. The claimant rate in both the South West region and UK are consistently higher than B&NES, with the table below showing the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant rate for February 2020 to 2024.

Period	JSA Claimant Rate		
	B&NES	South West	UK
February 2020	1.7%	2.2%	3.0%
February 2021	4.0%	5.0%	6.4%
February 2022	2.4%	3.0%	4.2%
February 2023	1.8%	2.5%	3.6%
February 2024	1.9%	2.4%	3.8%

Source: [ONS Claimant Count](#) - Claimant rate = proportion of population aged 16-64 claiming JSA

Appendix 1 - Achievements and Successes during 2023/24

The following table provides a summary of achievements and successes by Directorate that collectively demonstrate how the Council is contributing towards the core policies and principles set out in the [Corporate Strategy 2023-2027](#), as well as its local service priorities.

Directorate	Achievements and Success in 2023/24
Adult Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Successful transfer of staff and services from HCRG Care Group back into the Council with no service disruption. ➔ We enabled more people to safely return home after a stay in hospital in a timely manner through greater impact of commissioned home care and brokerage. ➔ Reviewed and renewed the MOU with AWP for the delivery of integrated Mental Health Services, lowest waiting lists in recovery and CITT for the 3 years. ➔ Successful delivery of 2-year UCB pilot with RUH which ceased following robust options appraisal and financial analysis. ➔ Development of BANES Carers Strategy, in consultation with 383 carers and 6 carers organisation, 3 carers forums. ➔ Achieved a good CQC rating for extra care housing.
Business Change & Customer Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ The service has held over 800 events this year averaging around 70 per month and reaching over 20,000 people. Highlights included supporting events for our refugees in the area, the Coronation and the ever-successful Summer Reading Challenge. ➔ Supported the Children's Transformation Programme with monthly steering groups to track progress of projects in the programme and provide support where required, the programme achieved its targeted savings for 2023-24. ➔ Commenced the delivery of a corporate landlord model for the management of council assets
Children & Young People and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ 2023 Bright Spots surveys of children in care and care leavers was completed and the responses were overwhelmingly positive. ➔ Successful Ofsted Annual conversation enabling the service to critically evaluate its performance and take stock of any action required.

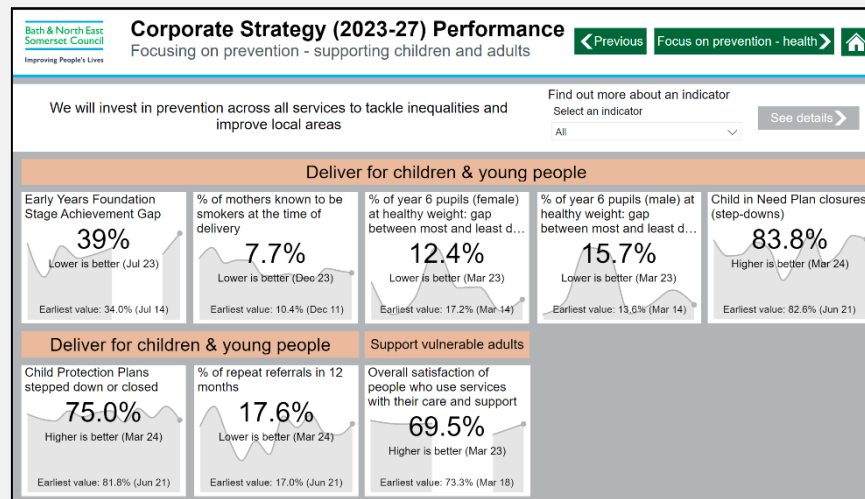
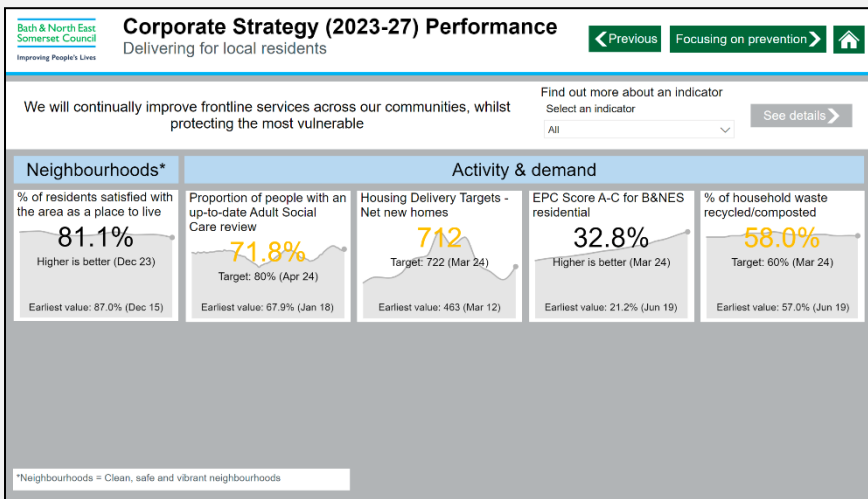
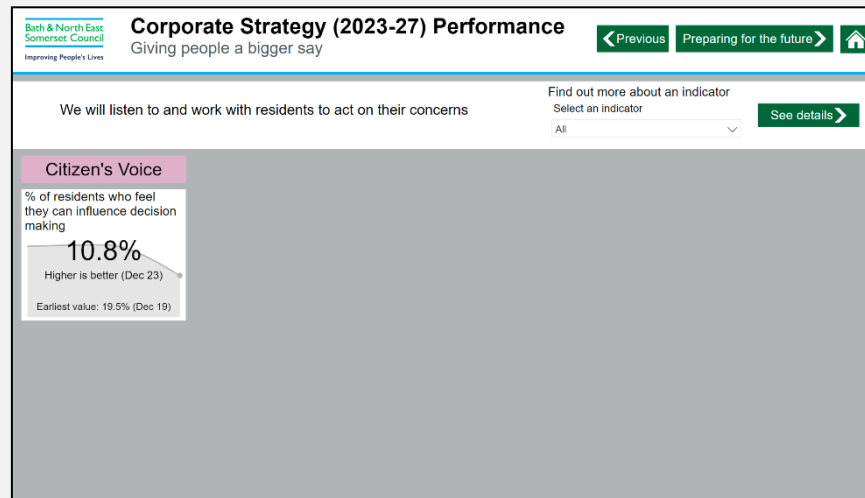
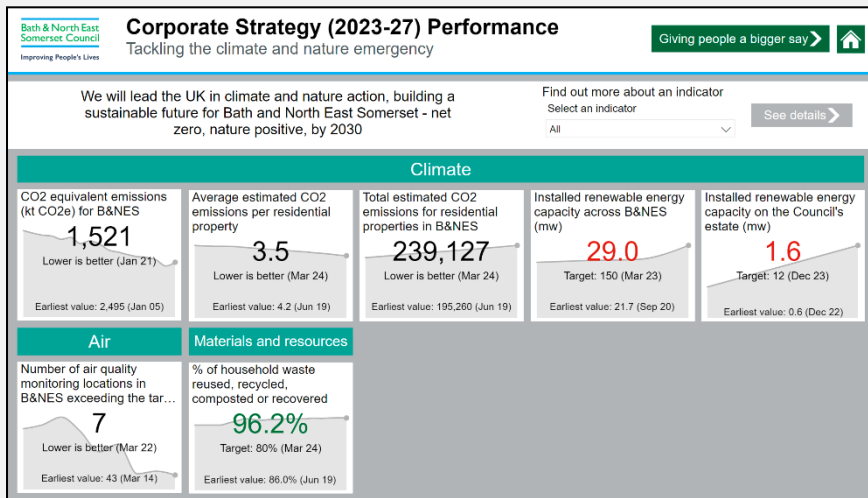
Directorate	Achievements and Success in 2023/24
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Music Service entered into partnership arrangements with neighbouring local authorities, improving the service's resilience. ➔ Department for Education funding secured to expand our 'Life Long Links' offer to looked after children ➔ Care Leavers Covenant agreed.
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Successfully lead the 2024/25 budget and savings process across the whole Council. ➔ Delivered annual rental growth of £1.16million over the previous years rental income budget. This additional revenue contributes towards the delivery of the Council's direct services to the community. ➔ Reduced the level of rent arrears owed by Council commercial tenants by £1million during 2023/24, resulting in a greater net income available to be spent on funding direct services to the community. ➔ The Council's Digital Strategy 2023 to '<i>put people and their needs first, using modern technology to improve people's lives, whether they be residents, businesses, visitors, or our staff</i>' has been completed and published on the public website. ➔ Commissioned and launched the BOB Programme to ensure the Council is fit for future.
People & Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Pilot the National Digital Death Registration service - Lead in South West area to implement changes to death registration by use of digital registration, and transfer of data between GPs, Hospitals and registration services to aid efficient use of resources and help steer national implementation. ➔ First successful Prosecution on a breach for listed building, demonstrating the Council's commitment to protect the heritage within Bath and North East Somerset. ➔ We have agreed the Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 to set the organisational priorities for the future. It was adopted by Full Council in July 2023 and has been published on the public website. ➔ Successfully delivered the 2023 local elections along with a comprehensive Member induction and training package
Place Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ During 2023, highway resurfacing works have been carried out at 54 locations across B&NES, bring 15km of highway back to a good standard, while highways drainage improvements saw 20,666 drainage gullies inspected and 17,891 cleaned. ➔ Emission-based charging has been implemented in Bath with vehicles that cause higher levels of pollution paying more to park in the eight Council-owned car parks in Bath. The new charges aim to incentivise motorists with higher polluting vehicles to use more sustainable forms of transport when visiting the city centre.

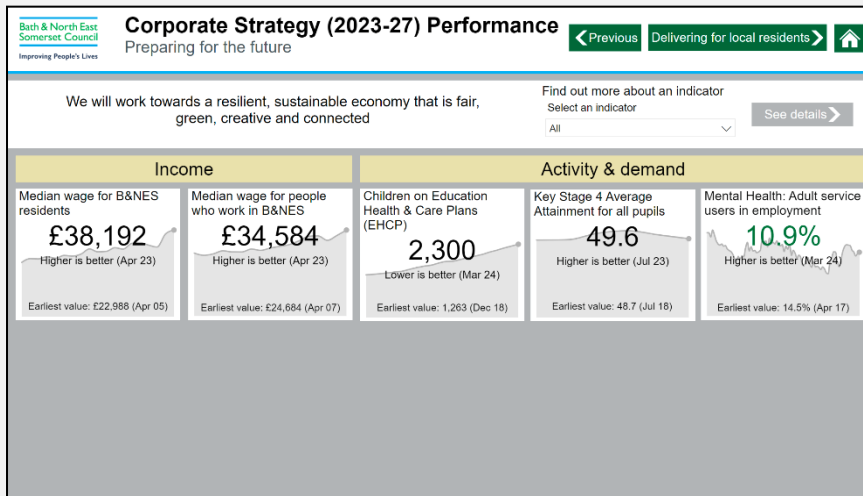
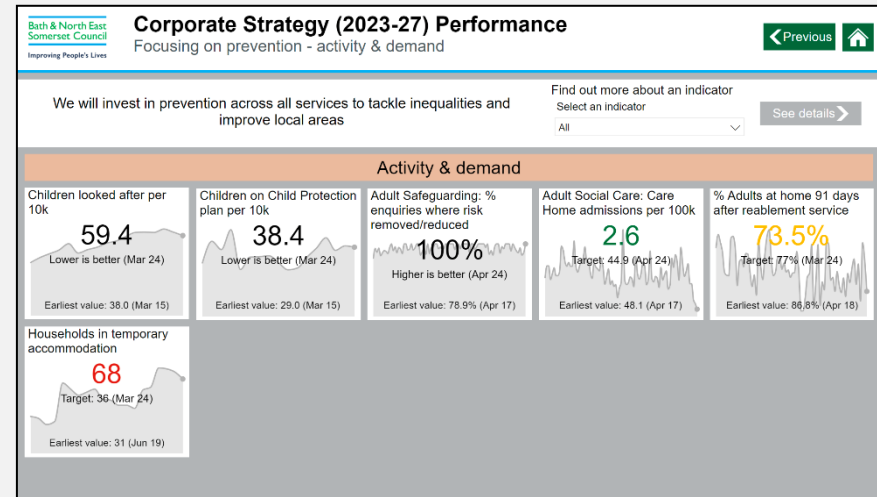
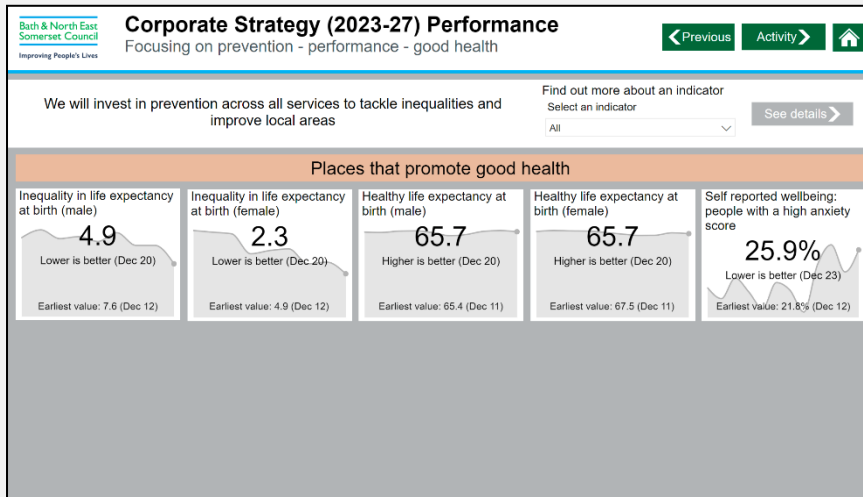
Directorate	Achievements and Success in 2023/24
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="456 225 2029 339">➔ 37 upgraded Pay & Display machines were installed in 2023, part of a phased roll out to replace all existing Council assets. New machines maintain a cash payment offer were possible alongside card and MiPermit payments, and provide an improved user experience. <li data-bbox="456 352 2056 547">➔ Results from an independent survey showed the 2023 Bath Christmas Market boosted the economy by an estimated £47 million in associated additional spend, up from £34.3 million in 2022 and £25 million in 2019. It attracted around 451,000 visitors, compared to an estimated 426,000 in 2022 and 403,000 in 2019. Researchers also found a high level of visitor satisfaction with respondents awarding the event an average 4.37 out of 5. <li data-bbox="456 560 2069 847">➔ Parks & Green Spaces received £91.5k funding from WECA for its pollinator schemes. In early 2023 we worked with residents to re-think how the 8 spaces were being previously being managed. Working with partners Blooming Whiteway, insect illustrator Marian Hill and Avon Wildlife Trust, workshops were held to understand how these spaces were being used and what was important about them. The aim being to find ways to improve wildlife habitats in these areas through new flower rich meadows, food forests and flowering shrubs and trees while providing attractive, well-maintained spaces where people can meet and kids can play. All schemes are now implemented on the ground. <li data-bbox="456 860 2074 1102">➔ Waste Operations and Fleet MOT centre workshops have been consolidated at the redeveloped Keynsham Recycling Hub following relocation from Bath and Ashmead Rd. 200 staff were relocated, enabling operational synergies from co-location across all departments. The new MOT centre opens in early 2024 with an ATF HGV MOT testing station and tachograph calibration facility, as well as expanding the MOT offering to the general public. The relocation resulted in changes to artic haulage for refuse and garden waste with consequent reductions in CO2 emissions. <li data-bbox="456 1115 2065 1310">➔ We successfully deployed Addex electric sweepers in 2023, which cause less pollution and dust, as well as a gum removal machine, producing good results and enhancing our city centre offering. We also trialled the use of Addex pedestrian sweepers for weed removal in the outer district in conjunction with new mechanical Westermann moss brushes on the clean and green project, significantly enhancing and speeding up the removal of weeds and moss.

Directorate	Achievements and Success in 2023/24
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Refurbishment of Hilltop Chapel has provided a more modern and befitting environment for the bereaved and deceased alike, with cremation services now available in either chapel. Fees for using the chapel have been increased, which will see an increase in the income stream.
Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Successful funding bids and / or agreements with delivery partners to install solar panels at Bath Sport and Leisure Centre, Keynsham Leisure Centre, and Midsomer Norton Leisure Centre, and upgrade to LED lighting on tennis courts at Saltford Lawn Tennis Club and Writhlington Sports Centre. ➔ Plan to Reduce Serious Violence in BANES 24/25 approved by Health and Wellbeing Board ➔ Vaccination outreach programme for covid and flu to vulnerable communities ➔ Development of the BANES Health Inequalities Network
Sustainable Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Strong progress on delivery of energy and retrofit action across the Council's assets. £620k grant funding secured for solar and heat pumps across our estate (£447k awarded from Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund and a further £173k from Sports England). An additional 85kW installed across corporate estate by the end of 2023/24 taking our total to 1.9MW. Proposals developed for a further 109kW to be installed in 2024/25. We're working with South West Net Zero Hub on bids to support feasibility and development for Lansdown solar and other pipeline development. ➔ We have begun work on Green Heritage Homes, a unique partnership between Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE), B&NES Council, Bath Preservation Trust and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (externally funded) to help historic properties contribute to net zero objectives. We have launched a new level 0 "pre-app" advice (planning team) and are developing a pipeline of events and guidance materials. We've also worked with BWCE and FAB Climate & Nature Group to deliver Green Open Homes weekend, attracting 788 visits, and with a wider programme planned for 2024/25. ➔ B&NES Homes continues to develop and expand the delivery of affordable housing with 50 units delivered, 11 units in construction and a further 92 at various stages of planning process. In total, and including working with RPs, we expect to have delivered around 385 units in the three-year programme by end of March 2024. This number would have been higher but unfortunately a number of key schemes have slipped into next financial year due to circumstances beyond our control. ➔ The Local Plan Options Document was approved by Cabinet on 1st February 2024 and went out to public consultation until 8th April. This is a key stage in identifying potential areas for growth and further updating our

Directorate	Achievements and Success in 2023/24
	<p>local planning policies to ensure that development meets the Council's objectives. The submission version of the Plan is targeted for Winter 2024/25 and then formal submission to Government in Spring 2025. Progress on Neighbourhood Plans (NP) depends on the activity on local groups and in 2023/24 - the High Littleton and Hallatrow NP reached submission stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ A Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan was completed in February 2024, and funding for a number of projects has been secured. In Keynsham the High Street Heritage Action Zone project has delivered £1.4m of improvements including public realm projects, shopfront improvements and arts and cultural programmes. In Midsomer Norton the £3.6m High Street Regeneration Programme is progressing well with the Phase 1 Town Hall transformation project nearly completed, the Island public realm scheme has technical and funding approval and will start on site in March 2024, other improvements including shopfront schemes, street furniture and wayfinding and arts and cultural programmes have been successfully delivered. The Bath Local Centres programme continues to be implemented with successful projects implemented in Twerton and Mount Road so far. ➔ On the 1 February 2024 Cabinet resolved to adopt the Council's Commitments paper, Local Development Order paper and In Principle Statutory Mechanisms paper for the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone (SVEZ). This milestone set of decisions aligns the delivery of SVEZ with the Council's new Economic Strategy, securing circa 1,300 jobs in the Somer Valley, providing the mechanism to deliver key active and sustainable transport infrastructure that will provide people in the Somer Valley the opportunity to stay local and reduce out commuting. The 38,500 sqm of mixed sustainable commercial space will enable the Council to deliver the new Economic Strategy through a greener economy, providing access to good work and creating resilient businesses. ➔ The Council welcomed over a million visitors to the Roman Baths and saw year-on-year growth at the Victoria Art Gallery, which will deliver £10.4m of surplus back to the Council. There have also been 100,000 plus visitors to the World Heritage Centre, and over 1.1 million people have seen Fashion Collection items on loan at institutions around the world.

Appendix 2 - Q4 2023/24 Strategic Performance Indicator Report





Appendix 3 - CQC Ratings for Bath and North East Somerset Care Homes

The table below summarises the latest Care Quality Commission inspection (CQC) ratings for the care facilities in Bath and North East Somerset based on the list of care homes on the Council's website.

Care Home	Type of Care Provided	Date of Inspection	Latest CQC Rating	Previous CQC Rating
Council Managed Care Homes (Community Resource Centres - CRC) and Extra Care Housing (ECH)				
Charlton House CRC	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia and Physical Disabilities	12/04/2023	Requires Improvement	Inadequate 31/10/2022
Cleeve Court CRC	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia, Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairments	20/12/2022	Requires Improvement	None
Combe Lea CRC	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia and Physical Disabilities	26/09/2022	Requires Improvement	None
Avondown House ECH	Home care for 65+	20/06/2022	Good	None
Greenacres ECH	Care and support are provided to older people with some care needs, including people living with dementia and those with learning difficulties. People are supported to live as independently as possible in their own rented self-contained purpose-built or adapted flat across five supported living settings	20/06/2022	Good	None
Hawthorn Court ECH		20/06/2022	Good	None
St John's Court ECH		20/06/2022	Good	None
The Orchard ECH		20/06/2022	Good	None

Care Home	Type of Care Provided	Date of Inspection	Latest CQC Rating	Previous CQC Rating
Care Homes Run by Independent Providers				
Beechcroft Residential Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+	04/03/2021	Good	Good 20/03/2018
Bloomfield Care Centre	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia	17/07/2023	Good	Requires Improvement 15/09/2020
Bridgemead Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+	17/04/2018	Good	Requires Improvement 10/01/2017
Cedar Park Nursing Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+	22/03/2023	Good	Good 16/10/2018
Charterhouse Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+ including Dementia and Physical Disabilities	10/10/2018	Good	None
Cholwell House Nursing Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+ including Dementia, Mental Health conditions, Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairments	17/03/2021	Good	Good 12/03/2018
Cranhill Nursing Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+	26/04/2021	Good	Good 13/11/2018
Culverhayes Nursing Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia and Mental Health conditions	01/11/2023	Good	Good 09/05/2023
Ellsworth House	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Learning Disabilities	12/02/2020	Good	Good 11/03/2017
Greystones	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+	23/03/2021	Good	Good 04/10/2018
Ivybank House Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+	09/02/2021	Good	Good 01/10/2019

Care Home	Type of Care Provided	Date of Inspection	Latest CQC Rating	Previous CQC Rating
Kingfisher Lodge Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia and Physical Disabilities	06/06/2022	Good	Good 07/07/2019
Larkhall Springs Nursing Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia	14/01/2022	Good	Good 04/12/2018
Manor Farm Residential Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+	08/08/2018	Good	Good 20/01/2016
Midford Manor Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+ including Dementia, Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairments	Registered 22/09/2023	None	None
Mostyn Lodge Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia and Physical Disabilities	26/10/2023	Requires Improvement	Good 03/08/2021
The Orangery	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia	18/08/2020	Good	Good 05/11/2019
Oriel Lodge Limited	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia and Mental Health	23/02/2021	Good	Good 26/09/2018
Rush Hill Mews	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+ including Dementia and Physical Disabilities	28/01/2022	Good	None
Shockerwick House Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Physical Disabilities	07/08/2020	Good	Good 30/11/2018
Springfield House Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+ including Dementia	28/09/2020	Good	Good 04/10/2018
St Philip & St James Retirement Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+ including Dementia	18/03/2019	Good	Good 30/08/2016
St Teresa's Nursing Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+ including Dementia	19/06/2023	Good	Requires Improvement 29/09/2020

Care Home	Type of Care Provided	Date of Inspection	Latest CQC Rating	Previous CQC Rating
Stanton Court	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+	08/03/2021	Good	Good 04/11/2019
Stratton House Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+	12/08/2022	Good	Good 16/10/2019
Whitehaven Care Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+ including Dementia, Mental Health conditions, Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairments	25/04/2022	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement 24/01/2019
Winfield Lodge	Nursing & Personal Care for 65+ including Dementia and Physical Disabilities	11/06/2019	Good	None
Woodside Nursing Home	Nursing & Personal Care for 18+ including Dementia	04/12/2020	Good	Good 06/11/2018

Adult Social Care: service users at 31/03/24

Care homes

619



Community

1,219



Total

1,838

1% of 18+ population
(159,503)

Adult Social Care: care planning°



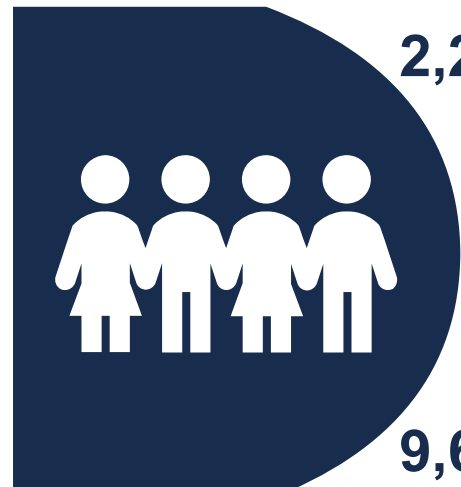
1,247 Care Act assessments

2,471 Social Care reviews

Children's Services

0-17 population: 36,615

Child Health (22/23)




2,230 Children on Education, Health & Care Plans^ | +16% vs. 2022/23

141 Children on Child Protection Plans* | +1% vs. 2022/23


218 Looked After Children* | -5% vs. 2022/23

1,258 Referrals to Early Help services | -14% vs. 2022/23

9,663 Contacts to Social Care | +0% vs. 2022/23

 **1,893**
-3% vs. 21/22

Two doses of MMR (aged 5)

 **567**
-36% vs. 21/22

Face-to-face antenatal contacts

B&NES Activity Report 2023/24

All data 2023/24 totals except where indicated below or where referenced in the Notes pane

 Notes

Planning



1,833

Applications decided
-7% versus 22/23

Fly-tipping



1,781

Instances cleared
+3% versus 22/23

Health improvement



126 -32% versus 20/21

Successful completions of alcohol treatment



182 -12% versus 21/22

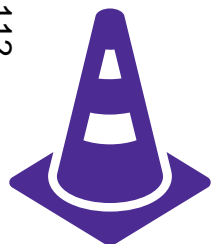
Smokers who quit successfully at 4 weeks



1,085 +2% versus 21/22

Adults in Substance Misuse Treatment Services

Streetworks



8,652

Permits issued
-16% versus 22/23

Homes for Ukraine*



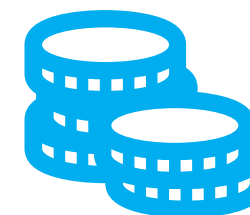
222

Hosting arrangements

387

Guests hosted

Revenues and Benefits caseloads*



4,249

Housing Benefit

9,147

Council Tax Support

Residual waste



365

Kilograms per household~

Kerbside recycling



21.8k

Tonnes collected
-8% versus 21/22

B&NES Activity Report 2023/24

All data 2023/24 totals except where indicated below or where referenced in the Notes pane



Social media interactions

20k Engagements

21k Engagements

50k Views

0.5M Impressions

Webinars and forums

8,351
Webinar and forum views

IT services

2,798 Users supported*

38k Teams meetings[†]

1,127k Teams chat messages[†]

Newsletters and articles

279 Newsroom articles

352k E-connect emails sent

Customer Services

118k Calls offered
-24% versus 22/23

Library and Information Services

425k Items issued
+4% versus 22/23

Organisational Development

412 Guided learning courses completed
-2% versus 22/23

7,985 eLearning courses completed
+4% versus 22/23

B&NES Activity Report 2023/24

All data 2023/24 totals except where indicated below or where referenced in the Notes pane



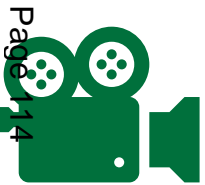
City & Town Centre

Highways

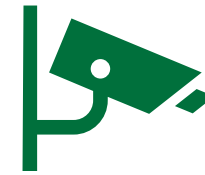
Environmental Health



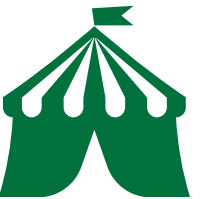
451k
Total visitors to Bath Christmas Market
December 2023



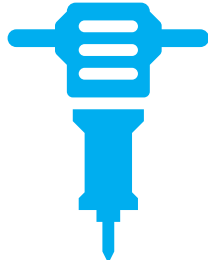
160
Number of days filming



272
Assisted Arrests



325
Number of event days booked



7,718
Potholes repaired
+105% versus 22/23



102k
Highway resurfaced (m2)



866
Food hygiene inspections

Health screening



23,635
Cancer screening
bowel cancer
People screened in the 2.5 years to March 2023

Council tree stock

Burial & Cremation



+1,311
Change in council tree stock



1,455
Burials and cremations facilitated

Update on progress on delivering the Corporate Strategy 2023-27 and Annual Performance Report 2023-24

- [Meeting of Cabinet, Thursday, 6th June, 2024 6.30 pm \(Item 14.\)](#)
- [View the background to item 14.](#)

To consider the attached report which updates Cabinet on the progress made in delivering the Corporate Strategy 2023-27 and the Council's performance in 2023-24.

Minutes:

Cllr Dave Wood introduced the report, moved the officer recommendation and made the following statement:

“It's hard to know where to start given the sheer quantity of achievements delivered by our hard-working officers over the last year.

Amongst our achievements are:

- Opening of the new Pixash Waste recycling facility in Keynsham.
- Being shortlisted by the Local Government Chronical Awards as most Improved Council.
- Bringing social care back in house with no services disruption.
- Agreeing an ambitious new Economic Strategy prioritising green growth, good jobs and affordable housing.
- 15km roads resurfaced and 7,000 potholes filled.
- Support for hundreds of refugees.
- Progressing regeneration in Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Radstock.
- Renewables are up, emissions per house are down, air quality improved, tree planting is up.

This is a testament to the hard work of officers, councillors, and the vision of the Liberal Democrat administration.”

Cllr Manda Rigby seconded the motion. She highlighted the achievements of the Highways Team who have received national and regional recognition. The Bath park and ride schemes were ranked second best in the country for customer satisfaction. The Council's Highway Maintenance was ranked best in the South

West in a national independent survey which analysed results from 111 authorities across England. She went on to give further examples of the team's achievements including high numbers of pothole repairs, resurfacing work, drainage improvements and upgrades to Pay and Display machines.

Cllr Sarah Warren highlighted the improvements that have been made in relation to the area's climate and ecological performance indicators. There has been a reduction in overall carbon emissions for the district and increased renewables capacity. Cllr Warren congratulated the air quality and Clean Air Zone teams for the reduction we are seeing in air quality measurement sites breaching the new local target. There is a steadily improving picture in terms of air quality, both in the city and outside.

Cllr Warren thanked the Strategic Transport and Highways Teams who work alongside the West of England Combined Authority to roll out innovations such as the liveable neighbourhood schemes and e-scooter trial. There remains a long way to go to achieve net zero and it is important to continue and to redouble our efforts across all areas of work.

Cllr Matt McCabe thanked the award-winning Planning Team, the Housing Team and the Community Equipment Team for their hard work.

Cllr Paul May pointed out the huge growth in the number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) due to increased demand.

Cllr Alison Born thanked the Adult Social Care Team for their partnership working enable people to return home from hospital as quickly as possible to reduce pressure on hospital beds.

Cllr Mark Elliott highlighted the work of the Corporate Services staff, for example, those working in IT and Finance, and commended their work to provide these services for the Council.

Cllr Kevin Guy stated that performance improvements are made easier by the excellent staff and Cabinet Members in B&NES Council and thanked everyone for their hard work.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To note the progress in delivering the Corporate Strategy and the highlights of Council performance and activity during 2023-24.

Supporting documents:

- [E3532 - Corporate Strategy Review 2023-24 and Annual Performance Report 2023-24, item 14.](#)  PDF 186 KB
- [E3532 - Appendix 1 - Corporate Strategy End of Year Review 2023-24, item 14.](#)  PDF 3 MB
- [E3532 - Appendix 2 - Council Activity Report 2023-24, item 14.](#)  PDF 1 MB

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CORPORATE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

This Forward Plan lists all the items coming to the Panel over the next few months.

Inevitably, some of the published information may change; Government guidance recognises that the plan is a best assessment, at the time of publication, of anticipated decision making. The online Forward Plan is updated regularly and can be seen on the Council's website at:

<http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>

The Forward Plan demonstrates the Council's commitment to openness and participation in decision making. It assists the Panel in planning their input to policy formulation and development, and in reviewing the work of the Cabinet.

Should you wish to make representations, please contact the report author or, Democratic Services (). A formal agenda will be issued 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Agenda papers can be inspected on the Council's website.

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
23RD JULY 2024				
23 Jul 2024	Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	2023/24 Outturn Report	Gary Adams Tel: 01225 477107	Executive Director - Resources (S151)
23 Jul 2024	Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring, Cash Limits and Virements - April 2024 to June 2024	Gary Adams Tel: 01225 477107	Executive Director - Resources (S151)
Page 120 23 Jul 2024	Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Annual Performance Report	Andy Thomas Tel: 01225 394322	Executive Director - Resources (S151)
17TH SEPTEMBER 2024				
17 Sep 2024	Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Corporate Asset Strategy		Executive Director - Resources (S151)
19TH NOVEMBER 2024				
19 Nov 2024	Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	2024/25 Quarter 2 Monitoring Report	Gary Adams Tel: 01225 477107	Executive Director - Resources (S151)

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
The Forward Plan is administered by DEMOCRATIC SERVICES: Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk				

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